

FEBRUARY 13  
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## Zvilli sees Palestinian state ahead

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The secretary-general of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour party said Saturday that Israel would have to agree to a Palestinian state and recognise Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights in return for peace. Nissim Zvilli, confirming an Israel Radio report of his views made on Friday before an Israeli group, said: "If there is peace at the end of this century it will be after we recognise the sovereignty of Syria on the Golan and I believe the Palestinians will adopt the position of having a Palestinian state." "We (Labour) don't believe it (a Palestinian state) is the best solution now, but I don't believe we'll be able to force the Palestinians to accept another option," he said. "It seemed to me that those are going to be the prices." "I can foresee that the Palestinians will prefer the option of an independent state, maybe as part of a confederation with Jordan," said Mr. Zvilli. The Labour leader's statements drew criticism Saturday from the hawkish opposition and right-wingers in Labour. Rafael Eitan of the far-right Tzomet Party said that if Mr. Zvilli's views were shared by Mr. Rabin, the countdown on Israel's survival had already begun.

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## Iraq urges slash in oil output

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq called Saturday on all oil exporting countries to cut production to boost prices. Oil Minister Safaa Hadi Jawad told the government newspaper Al Jumhouriyah that "halting the fall in prices requires all oil producers, whether they are OPEC members or not, to decrease production." Major producers, like Saudi Arabia, should also adopt policies which take into consideration world oil demand." Iraq is prevented from exporting oil by U.N. sanctions imposed after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Before that, Iraq, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, used to produce 3.1 million barrels per day. Mr. Jawad hailed Oman's decision to cut its 800,000 b/d output by five per cent from Jan. 1 in a bid to boost prices.

### Gadhafi: Clinton is not anti-Libya

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Saturday he was convinced that deep down U.S. President Bill Clinton is not against Libya but is acting under Israeli pressure. Colonel Qadhafi was reacting to Mr. Clinton's annual report to the Congress on U.S.-Libyan relations, published Thursday, in which he said Libya posed an "extraordinary threat" to U.S. security. "Clinton seems to have said this for many reasons, most probably under pressure" from Israel, Col. Qadhafi said, quoted by the official news agency JANA. "Clinton himself doesn't believe what he told Congress." But Libya will ask the United Nations to investigate this "serious accusation" and Mr. Clinton "will have to prove it," Col. Qadhafi added. Col. Qadhafi has always shown sympathy for Mr. Clinton, saying that the latter's opposition to the Vietnam war, while he was still an Oxford student, proved he was a "friend of oppressed peoples."

### Saudis upset Egypt with Haj restrictions

CAIRO (R) — Saudi Arabia has upset Egyptian travel agents by reducing the quota for Egyptians making the pilgrimage to Mecca and by banning pilgrims coming by land. The Saudis admitted 110,000 pilgrims last year but Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfai said in an interview published on Saturday that this year's quota was only 60,000. The Saudis originally offered to take 75,000 in 1993 but after many complaints they accepted more applications. The travel agents, already hit by a militant campaign against tourism to Egypt, are suing the government.

### U.S. fighter crashes in Adriatic; crew safe

GAETA, Italy (AFP) — Two U.S. fighters collided in mid-air over the Adriatic Sea on Saturday sending one jet crashing into the sea, a U.S. military spokesman said here. The two-man crew managed to eject safely from their F-14 fighter after it hit an F-18 in mid-flight, and were later picked up by a helicopter from the U.S. warship Wicksburg, said U.S. Sixth Fleet spokesman Major Graham Curry. The pilot of the F-18 managed to regain control of his aircraft and land at the Italian air force base of Brindisi, on Italy's southern Adriatic coast.

### Soviet soldiers still held in Afghanistan

MOSCOW (R) — Nearly 300 Soviet servicemen are still being held in Afghanistan, five years after the last Soviet forces officially withdrew, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Boris Gromov said Saturday. Mr. Gromov was speaking at a news conference to mark the anniversary of the Soviet pull-out after a 10-year military adventure in which an estimated 7,000 Soviet soldiers were killed.

## Arafat expects final accord soon, urges pressure on Israel

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Saturday he expects to sign a final deal with Israel by the end of the month to launch Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian agency WAFA reported.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would continue its efforts to achieve a "precise and faithful implementation" of the Sept. 13 autonomy deal, he said.

Mr. Arafat spoke after brief-

ing Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the PLO-Israel security pact signed in Cairo on Wednesday, which overcame some of the obstacles to launching self-rule.

Israel's withdrawal is due to be completed by April 13.

The two sides will resume talks in Egypt on Monday to finalise agreement on autonomy.

Mr. Arafat has written to world leaders demanding that Israel prove its credibility and implement the self-rule agree-

ment. WAFA reported on Saturday that Mr. Arafat had sent messages to the United States, Russia, China, Syria, members of the European Union, the Organisation of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Move-

ment.

The letters reported on the partial security agreement reached in Cairo which is intended to end the delay in implementing Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Mr. Arafat has clarified the obstacles Israel puts in the way of the implementation of the agreement, WAFA said. The PLO leader insisted that the Israeli side is called upon to show credibility in implementing the concluded accords," it added.

PLO representative in Cairo Saeed Kamal said Palestinian and Israeli delegations should speed up their negotiation and aim to put final signatures on a peace accord by the end of this month.

Mr. Kamal said the PLO and Israeli teams should agree on a final draft accord by the end of February.

"Haste should be the goal of the negotiators so that the final signing can be done by the end of this month, so that actual, on-the-ground implementation (of the accord) can begin in preparation for the entry of Palestinian detainees by next July at the latest," he said.

Dr. Kamal said the number of those prisoners had dropped from 11,000 to 9,000 following several releases of Palestinians since Sept. 13.

(Continued on page 5)

## Syria rejects Israeli call for 'second channel' for peace talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria Saturday rejected an Israeli call for a widening of their peace talks as a manoeuvre aimed at putting the negotiations in a "futile circle."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday in an Israel Radio broadcast that the talks in Washington between Syrian and Israeli negotiators be expanded with higher level contacts.

He repeated Israel's demand that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad should meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin directly to convince the Israeli public he is serious about peace.

"It would be desirable to have a Rabin-Assad summit," Mr. Peres said.

"Afterwards, the negotiations have to move to a political level," he added. "We need a second channel, not just contacts."

Damascus Radio responded that "Israeli calls to raise the

level of negotiations are no more than a manoeuvre and pretext to indulge in talks in a futile circle and distance them from peace."

The radio said the Washington talks have been in a "vicious circle" for more than two years because of Israeli refusal to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. The resolutions call on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories in exchange for peace with the Arabs.

"Instead of responding to these resolutions, Israel continues to stick to its demand for upgrading the level of peace negotiations," the radio said.

The commentary maintained that conflicts are usually settled on basic principles first before other matters are discussed.

"Negotiations in most cases present a declaration of principles and get deeply into minute details before talking about higher levels of negotiations."

(Continued on page 3)

## No more handover of arms, but Sarajevo ceasefire holds

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The disarming of Sarajevo was suspended Saturday as Bosnian Serb and Bosnian government forces failed to hand over fresh batches of heavy weapons to U.N. troops.

But the most effective truce yet during Sarajevo's 22-month siege continued into its third day intact.

Bosnian Serb officers negoti-

ating with their Muslim counter-

parts at Sarajevo airport

Saturday morning had failed to gain authorisation to continue the disarmament process, a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) official said.

The process got off to a good

start Friday, when Bosnian Serbs put under U.N. control

13 artillery pieces, while the mainly-Muslim Bosnian govern-

ment side handed over five

mortars.

The handovers were in line

with the ceasefire, which began

midday Thursday, and a North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ultimatum giving the

Serbs until February 21 to withdraw their heavy weapons from around the city or face air strikes.

No progress was reached in the U.N.-brokered airport talks because the Serb delegation "told us that it did not have a full mandate to negotiate," the UNPROFOR official said.

"The Bosnian (government) side accepted (the process) unanimously," the official said, adding that another meeting of more senior officers from both sides would be held Sunday.

"That will perhaps allow the handover of weapons to resume on a bilateral basis," he added.

Meanwhile in Geneva the latest round of all-party peace talks seeking a negotiated settlement to three-way fighting throughout Bosnia ended Saturday without progress, said U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg.

He said talks would resume at the end of February or early

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Foundation

## Siniora heads Palestinian banking group

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's Bank Leumi said on Saturday that Jerusalem publisher Hanna Siniora would head a group of Palestinian businessmen who intend to set up a commercial bank with Leumi and banks from Morocco and Spain. "The agreement on setting up the bank was already announced. What is news is the announcement of the Palestinian partners," Bank Leumi spokesman Yona Fogel, who confirmed an Israel Radio report on Mr. Siniora's involvement, told Reuters. "This consortium will be led by the Palestinian group," he said. In December, Bank Leumi said it was forming a group with Morocco's Banque du Maroc and Spain's Banco Central Hispano for a bank in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Siniora is a prominent publisher from Arab East Jerusalem who recently set up a Palestinian-European chamber of commerce. The group would probably apply to the Bank of Israel next week to set up the bank to be called International Palestinian Bank. Mr. Fogel said. The partners would invest \$10 million each. The central bank's equity requirement is \$20 million.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe (Petra photo)

## Amman awaits word on Yemeni accord signing

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has not been officially informed of the Yemeni mediation committee's decision to sign the reconciliation agreement between former South and North Yemen in Amman on Feb. 20, official sources said Saturday.

But Minister of Information Jawad Anani said Jordan would welcome a decision to sign the accord in Amman "if our brothers in Yemen have decided so."

The sources said, however, that Jordan would not sponsor the signing of the reconciliation accord unless it is clear that the agreement would succeed in ending the conflict between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Saleh Al Beidh.

Newspapers Friday quoted the spokesman of the Yemeni dialogue committee, Ahmad Jaber Areef, as saying that the committee had agreed "with our Jordanian brethren" to have the accord signed in Amman on Feb. 20.

Agence France-Presse quoted a Yemeni official it did not name as saying that leaders of the three parties in the governing coalition would attend the signing ceremony to which Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat would be invited.

An official source did not specifically say whether Mr. Arafat would attend the signing ceremony in Amman. But this source said that Sultan Qaboos of Oman, who mediated between the Yemeni parties, would be invited.

Diplomatic sources in Amman said that Yemeni parties are divided on which Arab leaders should be invited to the signing ceremony, adding that some prefer that only Yemeni officials attend it.

The sources refused to give any details about arrangements for signing the accord, which was reached on Jan. 18.

Sources said that some Arab parties are not happy with plans for having the reconciliation agreement signed in Jordan, which played a major role in mediation efforts between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh. "This could be one major reason why the plans are not materialising as soon as we would like," one source said.

The draft law clearly defines the rates of applicable tax on various items starting from a general tax of 10 per cent for the same category of items covered under the same rate in the consumption tax law — Mr. Gammoh said.

The draft law also includes a list of basic items such as food-stuff, medicine and education material exempt from the law. Government officials describe the exemptions as one of the main built-in mechanisms in the law to protect the low-income groups.

The second phase of the law — where it would expand to cover the services sector and professionals — will take effect in the third year after the enactment of the legislation after approval from Parliament and the issuance of a Royal Decree approving it.

Fierce opposition is expected from many deputies in Parliament who reject the IMF programme as well as those who have been lobbied by the business community.

Participating in the discussions that led to the finalisation of the draft law were representatives of the various in-

stitutions involved in the

ministry of finance, the

central bank, the

ministry of economy and

the ministry of planning.

(Continued on page 5)

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Ministers on Saturday endorsed a draft law introducing a sales tax and sent it to Parliament for debate and approval after amendments as lawmakers find fit, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said.

The draft law was forwarded to the legislature for emergency legislation but it was up to Parliament to decide when to take up the issue.

The draft was supposed to have been endorsed by the Cabinet on Tuesday but the process was delayed pending a final reading of the text of the law by the government committee on interpretation of legislation.

The sales tax is part of the economic restructuring programme that Jordan is implementing in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which had set a February deadline for its introduction.

An IMF certification that Jordan is implementing the economic programme is essential before the Kingdom could open debt rescheduling negotiations with its main creditors.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, speaking to reporters on his arrival here on a two-day visit Saturday, said the negotiations were tentatively scheduled for March (see sepa-

rate story).

Mr. Gammoh said that while the government would like to have the law clear Parliament as soon as possible it would not pressure the legislature.

"We will not interfere with the rights of Parliament," Mr. Gammoh told the Jordan Times. "It is up to (the lawmakers) to decide when to debate the law."

Mr. Gammoh said the draft law was in the pipeline for the past 30 months and had drawn opposition from businessmen who argued that it would lead to increased prices in the market and less profits for themselves.

According to government officials, the final version of the law is a compromise between the 30-month-old draft and the demands of the businessmen as well as consumer interest groups, such as the Society for the Protection of Consumers and the services sector.

Mr. Gammoh noted that the draft law replaces a 1992 legislation on consumption tax and that the ceiling for the levy has been brought down to 20 per cent from the 60 per cent in the 1992 law.

The minister also rejected suggestions that the sales tax would lead to higher prices in the market, pointing out that the revenue generated from the levy was JD 180 million, the same as collected in consumption tax during fiscal 1993.

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## Peres: Israel ‘must come to Arafat’s aid’

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel must help Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and other Palestinians who are being criticised over peace negotiations. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday on Israeli television.

“Israel must come to the aid of Arafat and to Palestinians who feel they are in a difficult situation,” Mr. Peres said in an interview.

“We would be wrong not to take into account the feelings of our negotiating partners and not to give them reasons to pursue the talks,” he added.

“Establishing confidence is more important than signing agreements, because without confidence those agreements are worth nothing.”

A historic “land for peace” deal due to be implemented in mid-January hit delays as the two sides tried to work out details.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) finally signed an agreement in Cairo on Wednesday providing security arrangements for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region on the West Bank. But a number of problems remain unresolved.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat have now agreed to continue negotiations early next week, Israeli Television said Friday.

A foreign ministry spokesman told AFP that the two men had spoken on the telephone but could not specify when the talks would resume.

Earlier Friday, Mr. Peres questioned the wisdom of maintaining certain Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as Palestinian self-rule begins.

But Israel will not be forced into evacuating them, he said.

Asked by Israel Radio if some settlements should be abandoned to secure peace with the Palestinians, Mr. Peres said: “Not under the pressure of negotiations.”

He added: “I’ll tell you the truth, there are some questions that have to be asked out loud.

“What is the point of maintaining a settlement with 28 families that needs workers from Thailand, that needs an army platoon to guard them, need to have their road guarded by patrols? Where is the logic? What is the point?”

Mr. Peres was referring to the isolated settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip, where 28 families live in the middle of an area slated for Palestinian self-rule.

About 120,000 Jewish settlers live among two million Palestinians in about 140 heavily-guarded enclaves in the occupied lands.

Hundreds of Thais are employed as cheap labour on farms because settlers are reluctant to employ Palestinians after a rash of killings of bosses by their workers.

Under the September PLO-Israel peace accord, the settlements are to remain during a five-year Palestinian self-rule period.

They will be subject to negotiation during final status talks to begin two years after the start of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

A government spokesman said talks on the stalled Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho would resume in Taba, Egypt, on Monday.

Army chief Ehud Barak said on Friday an Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho would take six to eight weeks after Israel and the PLO signed a final agreement on implementing Palestinian self-rule.

General Barak told state television in an interview Israel could prevent Palestinian workers from Gaza entering Israel after the withdrawal if attacks on Israelis continued.

Two Israelis were killed by Palestinians this week.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat on Wednesday bridged gaps that delayed the start of the pull-out, which under the peace accord was due to begin on Dec. 13.

### ‘Arafat is tense’

Mr. Peres said the Yasser Arafat he got to know in marathon negotiating sessions last week was often tense, anxious and had a hard time achieving lasting peace.

The OIC, in a statement issued late on Friday from its headquarters in Jeddah, quoted Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid as saying the organisation “was ready to play any role in encouraging lasting unconditional peace and to end disagreements between the Muslim brothers in Afghanistan.”

“He (Gabid) asserted that a ceasefire is essential to allow the organisation and other friends of Afghanistan to help our Afghan brothers overcome this tragic phase in their history,” said the statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency.

Mr. Gabid made the appeal for an unconditional ceasefire during the Holy Month of fasting while on a visit to Pakistan to meet representatives of warring Afghan factions. Ramdan began on Friday.

In the beginning, he was surprised. Then he suddenly understood what I meant. I told him: It’s not just us who have changed in our attitude towards you. You have also changed,” the foreign minister added.

Mr. Peres said that before he actually met Mr. Arafat, he had expected to find an impatient and hasty man. Instead, Mr. Arafat often hesitated and wavered when faced with making decisions.

Still, Mr. Peres concluded that Mr. Arafat was Israel’s best possible negotiating partner. “Arafat is a survivor,” Mr. Peres said. “There is one who is more widely accepted among the Palestinians than he is. I didn’t have problems negotiating with him.”

As opposed to all the rumours, I didn’t find him to be high-strung. He is very tense... I sensed a certain anxiety,” Mr. Peres added.

In one exchange, Mr. Arafat complained about what he considered Israel’s too limited view of autonomy in the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho. Mr. Peres recalled.

“Arafat told me at one point: ‘What do you want to turn me into? The Mukhtar (headman) of a small village.’ Mr. Peres said.

“I told him: ‘Don’t forget that when the state of Israel was founded in 1948, it had only 650,000 residents. Today, you are the leader of nearly one million Palestinians.’” he said, referring to the population of the Gaza and Jericho regions covered by autonomy.

An old man waits for handouts in Kabul. He is among the thousands displaced by the recent fighting in Afghanistan (AFP photo)

## OIC seeks lasting Afghan peace

DUBAI (Agencies) — The 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which has appealed for a ceasefire in Afghanistan during the Holy Month of Ramadan, said it would do all it could to achieve lasting peace.

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An old man waits for handouts in Kabul. He is among the thousands displaced by the recent fighting in Afghanistan (AFP photo)

## U.N. team installs cameras at Iraqi facility

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — U.N. nuclear experts returned here Friday after installing surveillance cameras at an engineering complex in Iraq as part of an accelerated U.N. arms monitoring programme.

Work speeded up after Iraq in November acknowledged a U.N. Security Council resolution on long-term weapons monitoring in the hope of an quick end to the U.N. oil and trade embargo clamped after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

“Certainly on this mission,

when we’ve asked to see a facility, when we’ve asked to see a piece of equipment, or when we’ve asked to see a person, they made arrangements for us to do that,” said the 17-member team’s British leader, Garry Dillon.

He urged leaders of both sides to hold their fire during the month of fasting and to seek a permanent solution to their differences.

### Mestiri mission

Former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri was named Friday to head a mission to Afghanistan to discuss how the United Nations could best assist with national reconciliation and reconstruction.

The General Assembly, in a resolution last December, asked Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to send the mission as soon as possible to obtain the views of a broad spectrum of Afghan leaders.

Speaking to reporters at the inspectors’ regional headquarters in Bahrain, Mr. Dillon said his team installed four cameras at Um Al Maqar engineering facility, about a 20-minute drive from Baghdad.

With the cameras, experts expect to know if at any time in the future Iraq tries to produce equipment that can be used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.

The new directives had been approved by Sudan’s nominated parliament earlier in the week, the minister said.

Mr. Mestiri’s team also tagged machinery and sought information from the Iraqis on a variety of topics. “We had a very positive response,” he said.

In all, a total of 23 facilities around the country will be equipped for monitoring to ensure that Iraq does not try to revive its nuclear arms programme, Mr. Dillon said.

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Juergen Moellemann, a member of the Federal Parliament of Germany and President of the German-Arab Friendship Society (Petra photo)

## King reviews Mideast peace process with visiting German parliamentarian

AMMAN (J.T.) — Juergen Moellemann, member of the Federal Parliament of Germany and president of the German-Arab Friendship Society Saturday was received by His Majesty King Hussein, with whom he discussed developments in the Middle East peace process.

During the audience, which was attended by German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners, discussion also covered Jordanian-German relations.

Moellemann was also received Saturday by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Mr. Moellemann, who arrived in Amman Friday on a two-day visit, discussed German-Jordanian relations and German and European Union (EU) economic, political and financial aid to Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The German official also met with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taha Masri to discuss Middle East developments and German-Jordanian relations.

After the meetings, Mr.

Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Fawzi Gharaibeh cooperation between Germany and Jordan in educational fields.

According to German embassy sources, Mr. Moellemann is leaving for the West Bank town of Jericho and later to Cairo Monday on the next leg of his current tour of the region.

He also discussed with Dr. Gharaibeh cooperation between Germany and Jordan in educational fields.

On Friday ministry inspectors seized quantities of frozen meat which, they said, was being used for sale as fresh to customers.

On Friday ministry inspectors have narrowed down to two or three groups those who are believed responsible for the recent bomb explosions, hold-ups and plots to destabilise Jordan, informed sources said Saturday.

The sources would not identify any of the suspected groups saying it might jeopardise the inquiries. However, they revealed that investigations had led to singling out "two or three groups" and that the focus of the probe, "at this point in time," was on "less than 20 people."

"The security authorities will reveal the findings of their inquiries as soon as they prepare their cases to be referred to the state security court," said the sources without elaboration.

The sources refused to say whether the suspected "groups" had foreign links or were operating under the instructions of a single party.

One source would only say: "We have to wait for the findings of the inquiries."

The disclosure that the cases would be referred to the state security court implied that the crimes would be treated and tried as capital offences and as threats to national security.

The nature of the plots as described by Mr. Hammad indicated that religious extrem-

ists were behind them. The last time Jordan witnessed extremist attacks by an organised group was when an underground group calling itself "Jeish Mohammad (Mohammad's Army)" staged a series of attacks on public places and security officers in 1990 and 1991.

In 1992, 18 members of the group were found guilty of carrying out or plotting attacks against security officers, senior government officials, state buildings and foreign diplomats as well as liquor stores and nightclubs.

Eight of them, including two in absentia, were sentenced to death. The death sentences, except those on the two at large, were commuted to life terms by His Majesty King Hussein.

"Jeish Mohammad" is believed to comprise mostly of Jordanian volunteers who fought with the Afghan rebels and returned home after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1990. They are said to be hardliners who oppose any interaction with the mainstream political life in the Kingdom.

A suspect who reportedly confessed to have planted the bomb that exploded at Zarga's Salwa movie house has been quoted as saying that he was persuaded to commit the crime, which cost him his legs, by a man who had frequently visited Afghanistan.

On Friday ministry inspectors seized quantities of frozen meat which, they said, was being used for sale as fresh to customers.

The inspectors have closed down and sealed the butchery where the meat was found, added the statement.

Before the start of the fasting month of Ramadan, the ministry announced it had made ample provisions of meat, noting that butchers were divided into three categories: those selling fresh imported meat, butchers selling imported frozen meat and those selling local fresh meat, which is a violation.

All the meat seized has been destroyed by ministry inspectors, noted the statement.

It said the ministry was referring the violators to court.

The seizure of the frozen meat was the second such incident this week, according to the statement.

At the same time, the ministry said its warehouses were selling frozen poultry meat to ensure sufficient amounts in the market during Ramadan.

In Karak police Friday detained two young males aged 22 and 20, and are searching for a third man, after they allegedly entered a Karak home and stole some money in the presence of the homeowners, according to police reports.

One of the residents told police that three unidentified men came to the house and convinced the occupants that they were officials. The three then attacked the residents and tried to steal money from them.

Also in Salt Friday, a 35-year-old man reported a burglary to police.

Mohammad H. told police he returned home after a short visit Friday to a friend's and noticed that someone had entered his house.

He said the burglar's stole some money and jewellery he had left in his house.

The report indicated that the burglar's entered the home by breaking a window.

In Irbid, a 72-year-old

woman also Friday reported to police that when she returned to her house she noticed that the kitchen door was open and everything in the house had been rummaged through. She also discovered that her jewellery was missing along with some watches and other valuables she kept in the house.

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The lectures will focus on the history of antiquities and related topics, according to the

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (left), Department of Antiquities Director General Safwan Tell (centre) and Italian Institute of Archaeology Director Georgio Gulini Saturday sign a technical and scientific cooperation agreement (Petra photo).

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## Jordan Times

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## Settlements vs. dollars

THE RECENT decision of the Clinton administration to penalise Israel by deducting \$437 million from this year's U.S. loan guarantees because of its illegal settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories appears to be less serious than it really is. What this penalty means in the final analysis is that instead of the full \$2 billion in U.S. guarantees Israel would receive in 1994, it can now expect a maximum of \$1.563 billion.

On the surface of things, Washington's "punitive" move is predicated on its appraisal of Israeli spending on settlements in 1993 in excess of what was originally expected and agreed upon between the American and Israeli governments in 1992. The catch is that any penalty against continued Israeli building of settlements does not affect the \$3 billion a year aid package to Israel. Had the White House been really serious about punishing Israel for its illegal settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it would have opted to cut drastically its direct financial, economic and military support programmes to the Rabin government instead of relying solely on reducing its loan guarantees.

Still, the U.S.' reaction, ineffective as it may be, confirms Arab suspicions that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is still bent on populating Palestinian territories with Israeli settlers at a time when he pretends to be suing for peace with the Arab side, especially the Palestinians. This is the newest evidence yet that the Israeli pious pleas for a just and durable peace in the region are cynical and hypocritical at best. At the rate the Israeli colonisation programme is developing, there would not be much Palestinian territory left to talk about at the end of the 5-year transitional period.

This is where the U.S. can be expected to do more by way of frustrating the Israeli settlement plans by cutting deeply into its concrete aid to the Jewish state. It could be the only language that Rabin understands, given the failure of all other methods of persuasion.

What adds insult to injury, though, is the reaction of pro-Israel activists in Washington who have expressed their dismay at the announcement of the so-called penalty. Now Israel and its supporters are pinning hopes on the U.S. Congress to reverse the administration's decision. If congressmen end up accommodating Israeli lobbyists on this score, then there is no escape from the conclusion that what the executive branch in Washington offers in support of the peace process on the one hand, Capitol Hill readily takes away on the other.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL-RAI Arabic daily said that the Serbs are committing atrocities against the Bosnians because they are Muslims and in the name of Christianity. The Serbs are being supported in their acts by the Russians and the western nations which have been causing so much suffering to the Arab people in the Middle East. regardless of their faith said the daily. By fighting the Muslims, the Serbs are putting on a false Christian image since their acts, which are characterised by hatred and racism, do not reflect the true nature of Christianity. Those who are killing the Muslims in Bosnia are the same people who are committing atrocities against the Arab Christians and Muslims in our countries, continued the daily. Perhaps the Russians' open support of the Serbs has best exposed the ill intentions of the colonial powers who serve any excuse in order to achieve their own selfish purpose, added the daily. At the same time, the world continues to hear lies coming from the western nations about their preparations to raid the Serbian positions to force them stop the war in Bosnia while these hiding Christianity pursue their aggression against the Bosnian people, well-supplied with weapons from Russia and knowing well that the western nations are making sure that no arms reach the Muslims to defend themselves.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Saturday drew a contrast between a statement by the health minister to Parliament about manipulations regarding the country's food and medicine on the one hand, and the interior minister's statement to Parliament about the danger inherent in the acts of sabotage. On the other, Taher Udwan said that both statements have had their adverse effects on the public and also on the country's economy, tourism and investments. The writer said that in the case of Dr. Malhas, his statement was necessary to expose corruption and those behind it, but nonetheless his frankness dealt a heavy blow to the economic and commercial life in the country. The same can be said about the interior minister's statement about the saboteurs, although his move was a patriotic practice, added the writer. He said that the interior minister should have waited until the end of the investigations rather than declaring that the Kingdom is targeted by terrorists.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Faneck

## Peace in the making — gains for Israel, concessions for Arabs

We are about to witness a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. There are indications that peace will be neither just nor acceptable to either our generation or the generations to come. It will be an imposed solution, which may be accepted by part of the Arab nation and the Palestinians, simply because the alternative under the circumstances is even worse.

Solutions now in circulation are all of a one-side nature, and so the peace process was progressing at the expense of one side's concessions. So far, not one agreed or recommended principle is equally applicable on both sides. The "rights" which will be recognised in favour of Israel are not met with the same rights on the Arab side, and the duties which will be placed on the back of the Arabs are not balanced by similar duties on behalf of Israel. This is the overall picture, but some examples should be given to substantiate the general picture.

Israel was very strict in its determination to maintain full authority on the border points between the Palestinian autonomous area and each of Jordan and Egypt. The sea port of Gaza and any airport that may be built inside the autonomy will also be under Israeli control. Mr. Rabin says that the purpose is to prevent Palestinian refugees from returning to their homeland. He says that openly, at a time when any Jew in the world is given the right to (return) to Israel and earn his or her citizenship upon stepping down from the airplane, even though he or she never lived in the Holy Land.

Israel is demanding the lifting of Arab boycott while saying nothing about Israeli economic boycott, where Jordanian products are not allowed to reach the West Bank market, let alone the Israeli market; and the Palestinian products are not allowed to reach the Israeli market, even though the whole economy of the West Bank and Gaza is not more than 4 per cent of the Israeli economy and cannot therefore pose a

serious risk. The Israeli product should be allowed to monopolise the West Bank market and have access to all Arab markets, provided the Israeli market remains protected, and the Israeli economy remains the most subsidised economy in the world.

Weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical and atomic bombs and missiles should not be allowed to proliferate in the Middle East under peace, but the Israeli mass destruction weapons are an exception, they have a (noble) objective to deter Arab aggression and to secure Israeli military edge over all Arab states combined.

National Security is very vital, but only for one side... the Israeli side. If the Golan Heights are overlooking Jaffa in the north of Israel, then Israel should keep the Golan Heights on security considerations. If the same heights are overlooking Damascus is not a problem. The fact that the Golan Heights are Syrian land is irrelevant. What counts is the Israeli national security, not the mutual security of both sides.

The Palestinian — Israeli declaration of principles calls for a joint committee to deal with common water of the West Bank. The committee will not be allowed to redivide all common water. What Israel took belongs to Israel alone, and what remained with the Palestinians is negotiable!

At the time when Arab countries, surrounding Israel, are urged to reduce their military spending because military budget should be diverted to economic and social development, we see America supplying the Israeli army with the most modern and deadly fighters.

Not one solution or requirement is equally applicable to both sides. All gains are meant for Israel, all concessions should be made by the Arabs.

## Gaza's graffiti artists turn less anti and more pro

By David Hoffman

GAZA CITY, Israeli-Occupied Gaza Strip — With delicate brush strokes, Maysara Baroud gave life to the illustration of a snake wrapping around an olive tree in pursuit of an eagle.

What was unusual about Mr. Baroud's painting was not the familiar symbol of Palestinian nationalism, including the checkered kaffiyeh scarf on the wings of the eagle and the minarets of Jerusalem in the distance. What made this painting stand out was its location.

Mr. Baroud's gallery is the sandy streets of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, his canvas the side of a friend's cinder-block house. His admirers are the neighbourhood youths who gather at his feet.

Mr. Baroud, 18, is among a new genre of Palestinian street painters who have emerged since the peace accord was signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on Sept. 13. Suddenly, the walls of Gaza are blooming with caricatures and colourful murals.

More significant, the tone of their work is becoming somewhat less antagonistic towards Israel and more celebratory. There are still illustrations of Kalashnikovs and knives, but the walls are now filling with slogans extolling Palestinian leaders and organisations.

Although Mr. Baroud portrayed Israel as a snake in his last painting, he said that as soon as Israeli soldiers begin pulling out of Gaza, "I will draw a picture for kids to tell them the era of stones is over."

The walls of Gaza are the Palestinians' version of a news ticker tape. Gaza has no local daily newspaper, and the Ara-

bic papers from Jerusalem that circulate here are censored by Israel. So the walls are a media outlet — what some Palestinians call a "newspaper without censorship."

Ossama Ali Issa, a tailor by trade and aspiring artist by hobby, was gazing out the window of a Gaza taxi recently as the endless, flowery graffiti whizzed by. On one wall, the freshly painted word "Palestine" in Arabic turned into a boat, with an automatic rifle at the mast.

"Anybody can do that," Mr. Ali Issa, 28, said with a grin. "Anyone can write graffiti, even with spelling mistakes. But painting, only the artist can do it. And a good picture, like a caricature, needs no further comment."

The art also reflects volatile public opinion. The Palestinian mood soared after the peace agreement but has since plummeted as Israel's withdrawal has been delayed. Grand tributes to the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, have been defaced in some neighbourhoods.

What is surprising about the street artists is that most are not young firebrands, but dedicated artists, not the type to be slipping out in the night in masks, with cans of spray paint.

Fayez A. Sirsawi, director of an art programme at the Gaza YMCA, said the political struggle often overwhelmed artists, especially the young. Before and during the *intifada*, he said, "art was provocative and fulfilled political ideas." He added: "But after the peace agreement, you could feel the change. We looked at the walls, and we found they were more optimistic than before."

— Washington Post.

## Seeking a fair solution based on Bosnian analysis

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — Out in the country, where he goes to speak monthly, Secretary of State Warren Christopher finds that no one asks about Bosnia anymore. Nor is it or any other regional dispute among his own "strategic priorities" — economic security, Russia, Europe and NATO, Asia, the Middle East and non-proliferation.

He blasted the EU, NATO and the United States on Thursday and disassociated Greece from a decision to blast Serb gunners if necessary to lift the siege of Sarajevo.

He called NATO backing for air strikes a "very unfortunate, totally wrong and guilty decision" and he was unlikely to have pleased EU partners by blaming them for the Bosnian crisis.

Yet he is conducting in Bosnia a salient test of the new diplomacy of high gesture and low commitment that global change and shrinking resources now force upon the American approach to much world disorder.

Things could also go badly for the Muslims on the battlefield if the latest reported incursions by Serbia's and Croatia's regular forces meet to a steady view of their territorial requirements and not move off more than they can chew.

Things could also go badly for the Muslims on the battlefield if the latest reported incursions by Serbia's and Croatia's regular forces meet to a steady view of their territorial requirements and not move off more than they can chew.

Mr. Christopher is aware that any political settlement in Bosnia must reflect the power balance established on the battlefield. He accepts that in the Balkans, memories are long, angels few and political deals vulnerable to revision. But he judges that there is a better chance a settlement may stick if it is based on Bosnia's own analysis, not in the first instance the European Union's, of what the traffic will bear.

An active international military role in Bosnia remains a remote prospect, most people feel, even if a few token air strikes are eventually made. So the prime international lever remains sanctions. Mr. Christopher understands that the neighbouring countries are sanction-wary. He is open to measures that would lighten their burden but keep some leverage available against Serbia and Croatia. The purpose would be to support the Muslims in Bosnia, to address the Serbian occupation of parts of Croatia and to stiffen the threat of war-crimes prosecutions all around.

He is sensitive to the criticism, notably from the French, that acting even indirectly to prolong the war is not "moral." The secretary does not much like the word. Ever the lawyer, he prefers a standard of fairness. — The Washington Post.

## Tensions rise in southern Balkans as NATO prepares for strikes

By Stephen Weeks

Reuter

ATHENS — A tinderbox combination of possible NATO air strikes against Serb gunners around Sarajevo and worsening relations between Greece and Macedonia is fueling concern that conflict could spread to the southern Balkans.

During a week when NATO delivered its ultimatum for rebel Serbs to lift their 22-month siege of Sarajevo, a long-simmering dispute deteriorated sharply between Greece and the neighbouring former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

"Greece states there are limits to its patience and these are being exhausted," government spokesman Evangelos Venizelos told a news briefing on Friday.

Greece has called on the new republic to make concessions, including changing its constitution and national symbols, before Athens will return to U.N. talks to resolve a two-year dispute.

"We could be facing a long period of tension. There must be compromise by both sides to prevent this from becoming a flash point," said Theodore Kouloumbis of the Hellenic Institute for European and De-

fence Policy. But compromise appeared more distant after the United States recognised the new state this week, prompting joy on one side of the border and deep anger on the other.

Washington, which has peacekeeping troops in the new republic, was following the lead of Greece's main European Union partners, which recognised the new state in December.

After U.S. recognition, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou issued a stiff warning that "Greece can isolate this republic economically... which means that this country will collapse."

The republic is dependent on the Greek port of Salonica. Athens has maintained a veiled threat to close the border and access to Salonica to force the Republic to accept its demands.

"It seems that Skopje (as Greece calls the state) does not understand the particular and unique importance which normalisation of relations has for it," Mr. Venizelos said.

Greece's Socialist government has said it has a range of options ready to put pressure on the most southern of the republics in what used to be Yugoslavia but it refuses to give details until it decides to act.

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Hours after Mr. Papandreou's warning of economic strangulation, he seemed to slam the door on resuming U.N. talks on the feud after hearing that Macedonia had rejected his conditions for dialogue.

He said that if officials from the EU had been accurately quoted, "they mark the end of dialogue." Special envoy Cyrus Vance has tried since October to restart the stalled U.N. talks.

Mr. Kouloumbis said: "I am clearly much less optimistic today than I was yesterday."

The row between Greece and its neighbour has destabilised the southern Balkans since 1991 and all efforts by the EU and U.N. to work out a solution have failed.

Most of Greece's allies have pushed to recognise the state of two million Slavs and ethnic Albanians. They argue its large Albanian population and big neighbours make it easy prey in the turbulent Balkans.

But several diplomats said they felt a real danger was that Greece was increasingly isolated from its EU partners and NATO allies in the dispute and over Balkan policies in general.

"Whose responsibility is it that we have such a crisis?" he asked. It is, unfortunately, the European Union.

Mr. Papandreou said the EU blundered by agreeing to recognise Bosnia in December 1991, sparking a civil war, and it was about to blunder again with military intervention.

"What are the chances that we will spread the war (with military intervention)?," he asked. "I don't want to be more specific but the possibilities of the war spreading exist."

## 200,000 ex-Soviet Jews avoid Israel

TWO HUNDRED thousand Jews from the former Soviet Union have emigrated to countries other than Israel since the start of the wave of Jewish emigration from the ex-USSR in 1989.

Citing Uri Gordon, the head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, the *Jerusalem Post* said that the vast majority — 160,000 — went to the United States. They went there with assistance from non-Zionist organisations and from the communities in which they settled, said Mr. Gordon. The others mainly chose to live in Germany, Canada and Britain.

Speaking in Moscow at a conference of Israeli consuls, Mr. Gordon said that immigration to the CIS has been stable in the past year. While there had been increased emigration from Ukraine and Belarus, the numbers coming from Russia had declined.

He attributed the fall in the numbers coming to Israel to a perception by prospective immigrants that the Israeli government was doing little to help them "despite objective data which show that there has been a considerable improvement in the absorption process."

Mr. Gordon expressed hope that the election results in Russia, in which extreme right wingers performed strongly, would give a push to "those Jews who are sitting on their suitcases."

Interest in emigrating to Israel has indeed increased since the elections, Haim Chesler, head of Jewish Agency activities in the CIS, was quoted as saying. The *Jerusalem Post* said that "emigration throughout the European cities and towns of the Russian republic have reported growing interest among prospective immigrants" who cited

fear of fascism as their reason for wanting to emigrate". Mr. Chesler added, however, that this has yet to be translated into actual arrangements for departure — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, London.

He is sensitive to the criticism, notably from the French, that acting even indirectly to prolong the war is not "moral." The secretary does not much like the word. Ever the lawyer, he prefers a standard of fairness. — The Washington Post.



into actual arrangements for departure — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding,

# Features



## Juppe reiterates French stand

(Continued from page 1)

Zagreb and Sarajevo was aimed at "relaying this message clearly... that we are determined to impose respect for this warning." The NATO threatened Wednesday to order air strikes.

## Arafat expects final deal

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Peres, meanwhile, suggested that a small Jewish settlement in the occupied Gaza Strip was no longer viable and might one day be dismantled.

With his remarks broadcast Saturday on Israel Radio, Mr. Peres became the most senior figure in the Rabin government to raise questions about the future of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

It has been Israel's position in the negotiations that none of the 144 Jewish settlements would be uprooted during the five-year period of Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Peres, asked whether he would in principle support the dismantling of settlements in Gaza, said such a decision should not be made "under the pressure of the negotiations."

"But I certainly have ques-

## Amman awaits word on Yemeni pact

(Continued from page 1)

when Mr. Beidh left the Yemeni capital Sanaa for South Yemen's capital Aden on Aug. 19 where he remains until now. The crisis resulted from differences of opinion on the pace of the union as well as economic and social reform.

In elections held last April, Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) and Mr. Beidh's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) emerged as the two dominant parties and agreed to form a coalition government headed by Mr. Saleh as presi-

## Cabinet endorses sales tax law

(Continued from page 1)

terest groups such as the chamber of industries and commerce as well as the banking sector.

## Ceasefire holds in Sarajevo

(Continued from page 1)

war, is beefing up its air forces in Italy in preparation for possible strikes in Bosnia. The United States, Britain, France, the Netherlands and Turkey are either sending extra strike aircraft to Italy or returning planes which had been deployed there previously.

The NATO planes, some of which are based on aircraft carriers in the Adriatic, may be used to hit Serb artillery around Sarajevo and could also have to protect lightly-armed U.N. peacekeeping troops in Bosnia.

Military sources said the reinforcements were intended to ensure that there was sufficient firepower to support U.N. forces on the ground if they were attacked in retaliation for allied air strikes.

A total of about 170 NATO fighters, bombers and ground attack aircraft will be within easy reach of Bosnia in less than 15 minutes.

Russia on Saturday renewed its opposition to NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serbs, with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev warning that such attacks should only go ahead in response to a request from U.N. peacekeepers on the ground.

The NATO ultimatum "is in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions that call on regional organisations to protect the blue helmets in Bosnia," Mr. Kozyrev was quoted as saying by Interfax.

The foreign minister added that Russia took a "cautious view" of the idea of air strikes, as acknowledged that they may be used to defend U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, this is requested by these.

Mr. Kozyrev's comments marked a considerable shift in line from the Foreign Minister's earlier statement condemning the NATO ultimatum as an invalid decision taken "outside the framework" of the N.

The critic: indirectly, the French is not "moral" does not stand. Ever the standard of Washington

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

## Clues to evolution in an extraordinary family of fish

By Natalie Angier

BERKELEY, California — The date is a dud and both parties know it. Yet as long as they are stuck with each other for a time they make a wan effort to flirt. She quivers gently in response. He flaps his tail against her. She flares her gills to show their provocative red undersides. He circles around, charges her again and tries to nip her, but now she's getting bored with the charade and moves away from him. Reacting likewise, he drifts off to the opposite end of the tank. For a few moments they are each lost in the inscrutable vastness of fish thought. And then it happens. The female opens her plump, sensuously curved lips into the widest, roundest, most perfect, least courteous gape of mouth that can be imagined: a fish yawn.

The question is part of a broader consideration of the sexual, social and feeding behaviours of cichlids, an extraordinary family of fish that many evolutionary biologists believe could help resolve the great puzzle of how species evolve and how diversity in nature arises from monophony.

More than 1,000 species of cichlid fish live in the lakes and rivers of Africa, Madagascar, India and Latin America. They are a highly successful tribe, frequently dominating their environment through a blend of intelligence — unusually high for a fish — and elaborate rituals of parental care. But what makes them so unusual is the number of species that often coexist in the same place.

More than 500 different varieties of cichlids swim in Lake Malawi, in southeast Africa, while about 200 other species live in Lake Tanganyika, in Tanzania. Some species are bigger than goats, others could fit in a thimble. Some are thick and boxy, others lean and long. They are brown or turquoise or every shade of a neon rainbow painted on a single beast.

Sometimes, Ms. Henson said, when a female is put in a tank with a male, she becomes so excited that her genitalia swell and she immediately grows heavy with eggs. For his part, an interested male is a violent male, behaving towards his potential mate with an abusiveness that looks like grounds for criminal charges.

"Once a male bit a female so hard I actually jumped," said Ms. Henson. "I could hear the sound of the crunch." But not today, and not with these two slugs. Their disastrous date is finished, the experiment over, and each is returned to its proper tank.

Ms. Henson works in the laboratory of Dr. George W. Barlow of the University of California at Berkeley, a leading authority on the great and wildly diverse group of animals

known as cichlid fish. She and others in the lab are studying the Midas cichlid, a beetly, square-jawed creature from Nicaragua that comes in two colour schemes, zebra-striped or gold — the last accounting for the species' name. Midas fish, like many other cichlids, are monogamous, and the researchers are seeking to understand the individual traits that inspire one Midas to choose another as its mate for life.

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And the cichlid's rate of speciation has been explosive. In Lake Victoria of East Africa, for example, 300 species of cichlids arose in less than 200,000 years, an evolutionary pace that no other animal group has rivaled. Certainly, none of the other fish groups found in the three African lakes has undergone anything



One of the more than 500 varieties of cichlids found in Lake Malawi

approaching the spectacular diversification managed by the cichlid family.

In the journal *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, Dr. Avel Meyer, a molecular geneticist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, pulled together much of the recent molecular data on cichlid fish. The DNA work has confirmed previous results from the taxonomists that cichlids are monophyletic; that is, they all originate from a single ancestral fish that arose perhaps 120 million years ago, when India, Africa and Latin America were one giant continent.

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Since the breakup of the continents, the founder fish that were carried off to different regions of the planet have gone their own ways, speciating wildly in all cases yet by very distinctive genetic mechanisms from one lake or river to another.

In some instances, species of cichlid fish that look and behave radically differently from one another turn out to be almost identical genetically. For example, Dr. Meyer compared the DNA of 14 Lake Victoria cichlid species, choosing fish with radically divergent feeding behaviours: a snail ea-

humans, of course, are all members of the same species.

The new work suggests that much of the success of the cichlid family could lie in its unusual degree of molecular flexibility, with minor differences in genes able to yield enormous disparities of comportment.

"There's always a new amazing story when you study cichlids," said Dr. Meyer. "The standard idea in ecology is that there are various niches waiting to be filled, and species arise to fill them. But cichlids seem to create their own niches" — New York Times.

## De Beers, Russia wage diamond war in Israel

By Jean-Luc Renaudie  
Agence France Presse

TEL AVIV, Israel — Russia and the powerful Anglo-South African conglomerate de Beers have for months been waging a war over diamonds in Israel, the world's largest diamond-cutting centre, experts say.

The battleground is located in the two ultra-modern skyscrapers that house the diamond exchange and sparked a debate on freedom of expression in an increasingly conservative environment.

Experts said Moscow may be storing two hundred million carats worth \$7 billion or the equivalent of more than a year's annual production internally.

The Russians, who produce a quarter of the world's uncut diamonds, have stepped up their black market sales in Israel.

Secret transactions worth \$40 million were recently carried out in Israel in violation of an agreement between Moscow and de Beers. A diamond expert who declined to be identified told AFP.

According to their agreement which expires in 1995, the "syndicate," as de Beers is known, can market 95 per cent of Russia's production with the remaining five per cent sold freely at auctions in Moscow.

He added: "But if there are going to be air strikes we may lose some control."

"We would never give such an order to harm foreigners in our country. But if they strike us then that's going to be chaos and this chaos may command many things we would never support," Mr. Karadzic said.

The foreign U.N. aid workers who were having trouble leaving Bosnia have reached Zagreb, a U.N. official said Saturday.

U.N. foreign workers in Banja Luka in northern Bosnia were denied permission to leave for Zagreb on Wednesday because they lacked a 48-hour pass required by authorities. The workers reached Zagreb Saturday, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said in Geneva.

She described comments made by Bosnian Serb deputy military commander Milan Gvero on Wednesday to Tancung news agency about stopping U.N. aid workers from leaving the country as a "rather frustrated" reaction to NATO threats of air strikes.

Israel, which exported a record \$3 billion worth of cut diamonds in 1993, imported \$2.4 billion in uncut stones, with \$832 million of it from sales organised by de Beers in London and the remainder on the open market, notably in the Belgian city of Antwerp.

"This system has to date allowed us to ensure price stability. The Russians have no interest in flooding the market and triggering a collapse in

## Nude picture ignites cultural war in Egypt

By Mona Eltahawy  
Reuter

CAIRO — A Gustav Klimt nude of Adam and Eve on a magazine cover has ignited a cultural war in Egypt.

The turn of the century painting by the Vienna artist was the subject of a long parliamentary attack on Culture Minister Farouk Hosni that shocked intellectuals and sparked a debate on freedom of expression in an increasingly conservative environment.

Parliamentarian Galal Gharib told a rowdy assembly Mr. Hosni was responsible for the immorality of modern Egyptian culture and asked women members of parliament to leave so he could prove it.

The women stayed put and Mr. Gharib pointed to a photograph of the "offending" painting, which appeared on the cultural magazine "Creativity", and spoke of a play with homosexual characters as examples of what was culturally rotten in Egypt.

Mr. Gharib motioned a no-confidence vote against Mr. Hosni but Gamal Al Ghitani, editor-in-chief of the weekly "Culture news", wrote that the Russians will be reasonable and reach an agreement with the syndicate.

The Russians, who are desperate need of hard currency and want to extract better terms from de Beers, have begun to secretly export diamonds," a senior diamond exchange official said.

"If the Russians respect the accord with the syndicate and wish to sell their surplus directly in Israel, they're welcome to do so," said Mr. Forem.

"If the Russians offer stones at better prices and without middlemen, certain cutters may be tempted," added Zvi Shur, president of the Israeli Association of Diamond Producers.

The purpose of the Jewish state last year imported only \$10 million worth of uncut Russian diamonds, said Industry and Trade Ministry official Hanan Bitman.

Officially, the Jewish state last year imported only \$10 million worth of uncut Russian diamonds, said Industry and Trade Ministry official Hanan Bitman.

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"This system has to date allowed us to ensure price stability. The Russians have no interest in flooding the market and triggering a collapse in

signing a statement condemning what they considered Mr. Gharib's "cultural terrorism."

The furor in parliament has highlighted the fear of many intellectuals that the showdown between the government and Muslim militants fighting to overthrow it would spill over into cultural circles and dictate the boundaries of freedom.

Intellectuals often complain the government, accused by the Muslim fundamentalists of being Godless, was trying too hard to outdo the militants in religiosity by imposing a stricter Islamic line and censorship in movies and art work.

"I reject any authority outside the art world imposing restrictions. Today it may be Al Azhar [Egypt's primary Islamic institution], tomorrow it may be the army. Only an artist can be the source of judgement on art, not a religious, governmental or political entity," artist Adel Al Siwi told Reuters.

When a journalist for a cultural publication asked him recently if art was sinful, Mr. Siwi refused to answer, saying he was an artist, not a theologian.

Fundamentalists regard films and theatre as sinful because they show torrid love affairs, sex scenes and drinking and other behaviour deemed immoral. Militants have killed at least one writer and threatened many others for their secular views.

Many writers and intellectuals are on the militants' death list and have been under

tight government protection since the 1992 murder of secular writer Farag Foda, who was gunned down by militants for his anti-fundamentalist views.

British author Salman Rushdie, ordered killed by Iran's Islamic leader for his blasphemous novel "Satanic Verses", found a sympathetic ear among many Egyptian intellectuals who said his book should not be banned.

Intellectuals shake their heads in disbelief at a recent case in Egypt in which fundamentalist lawyers demanded an end to the happy marriage of secular academic Nasr Hamed Abu Zeid on the grounds that he has renounced Islam through his books.

The lawyers argued that Mr. Abu Zeid was an apostate and therefore his marriage to a Muslim woman was automatically annulled.

"This [Gharib's] barbaric attack, taking cover behind religion, is part of a plan aimed at destroying the Egyptian mind. Egypt's culture is its protection against outside influence," said writer Fahd Al Assal.

Other academics have stressed that nudity and erotica are not new to Egyptian culture but have been there from ancient Egyptian times and can even be found among the great works of Islamic literature.

"If the excuse of nudity was applied to everything then we would have to destroy most of the relics that we are proud of," wrote Mr. Ghitani.

Illustrating his point, the Brooklyn Museum opened an exhibit of ancient Egyptian reliefs in January that included a small painted limestone sculpture showing a woman having sex with six much smaller, grinning men.

Ibrahim Issa, writing in Rose Al Yusif magazine, reminded Mr. Gharib of Sheikh Al Nafzawi's tame the "Perfumed Garden", a medieval Islamic erotica manual on par with the Kama Sutra, an eastern work on the pleasure of sex.

Only Fahmi Howeidi, the sole pro-Islam columnist allowed to air his views in the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper, came to Mr. Gharib's defense.

**ROYAL JORDANIAN**

### BEAUTICIAN/DIETICIAN/NUTRITION COUNSELOR REQUIRED

Royal Jordanian Airline has two vacancies for the following positions:

#### Beautician

With the following qualifications:

1) Degree in skin therapy/professional make-up and hair styling.

2) Minimum of five years work experience in the same field with a recognised beauty establishment.

3) Very good command of the English language (written and spoken).

4) Jordanian nationality.

#### Dietician/Fitness Specialist

With the following qualifications:

1) BSC degree in nutrition or physical education.

## Hosokawa, Clinton harden positions on trade

**WASHINGTON (R)** — The United States and Japan appeared to be on a collision course on trade policy Saturday despite a friendly parting by President Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

After the two leaders had breakfast in the family quarters of the White House, Mr. Hosokawa said at a news conference that Tokyo would not drop its resistance to "numerical targets" to pacify the Americans on trade.

"We will not modify our position in that regard," the Japanese leader said.

Mr. Clinton suggested U.S. retaliatory action could come quickly.

"We'll just have to examine what our next steps will be, and we'll be turning to that next week," he told reporters after a bill-signing ceremony in the Oval Office.

On Friday, the two sides failed to iron out their trade differences and came up with an agreement as planned, opening the door to possible retaliatory strikes by Washington.

Mr. Hosokawa said he hoped the Americans would not take unilateral actions that contravene international trade laws, but said he was not frightened of a quick strike.

The agreement will lead immediately to sanctions," Mr. Hosokawa said through a translator.

"If the United States wants to go ahead with sanctions, let's do it," one Japanese diplomatic source said late Friday. "This is a transitional period and it will be rough, but it is necessary to create a more mature relationship."

The diplomat refused to be identified.

At a news conference after Friday's three-hour meeting,

Mr. Clinton said a "period of reflection" was needed before negotiators meet again. Mr. Hosokawa agreed that "a little bit of cooling off" was necessary.

"We will try to cool down," Mr. Hosokawa told reporters who travelled with him from Tokyo. "But as to what we will do from now, I can't say at this point."

Mr. Hosokawa's statement mirrored that made earlier by Mr. Clinton at a joint news conference by the two leaders after their three-hour summit.

"I have no idea what will happen from here on in," Mr. Clinton said. "We just didn't make it."

If Japan has further proposals, our door remains open," the president added. "But ultimately, Japan's market must be open."

Despite a last-gasp attempt to resolve problems that have existed since a framework agreement was signed last July, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Hosokawa failed to reach final accords called for in the pact. The accords are aimed at cutting Japan's giant trade surplus and improving access to its markets.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Hosokawa said their failure to reach agreement should not be allowed to damage U.S.-Japan relations.

A U.S. official said "a full range of options" for opening Japan's markets would be reviewed promptly. He declined to be specific, but made it clear that the options include retaliation for trade practices deemed unfair.

Action could come as early as Tuesday when the United States is expected to complete a review of how open Japan's cellular telephone market is to foreign competition.

"We will proceed promptly, responsibly and carefully," the

official said. "The status quo is unacceptable."

Sozaburo Okamatsu, the vice minister for international affairs at Japan's trade ministry, said sanctions are equally unacceptable.

"I don't think that the United States would soon take sanctions, but if they did we would break off the framework pact and bring a case" before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), he said.

Mr. Hosokawa made it clear that he, like Mr. Clinton, was prepared to accept no deal rather than be saddled with a bad one.

In the past, Japan and the United States have sometimes reached ambiguous agreements which could gloss over the problems of the time only to find them to become sources of later misunderstandings.

Mr. Hosokawa said at the news conference with Mr. Clinton:

"Now, I firmly believe that our relationship in this new era is maturing into a stage where each of us respects and has confidence in the judgment of the other...but at the same time, frankly admits what we can and cannot do, despite such best efforts," he added.

"Japan has, in recent years, sought a way to create more equal ties with the United States to replace the old pattern in which Japan traditionally caved in to U.S. threats at the last minute," he elaborated.

"We didn't have an ambiguous agreement in which both sides could claim victory at home," Mr. Hosokawa said.

"But one can evaluate positively the fact that the U.S.-Japan relationship was unshaken despite certain differences."

Japanese negotiator Koichiro Matsura was blunter: "It was unfortunate that



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa pause during a news conference held to sum up their Friday meeting about trade and other issues (AFP photo)

a compromise on the central issue — how to reduce Japan's huge, politically explosive, trade gap with the United States.

Speaking in the gloom aftermath of Friday's failed White House meeting between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Hosokawa, Mr. Kumagai told reporters in Tokyo:

"We must not leave the issue unresolved indefinitely. We should resume talks as soon as possible."

Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, recognised that U.S. retaliatory strikes could now be imminent.

"I sincerely hope the U.S. will make a sound judgement and avoid retaliatory measures," he said.

Goshi Hiraiwa, head of the Japan's biggest business group, Keidanren, reacted phlegmatically to the breakdown.

"This is the result of Japan's rigid resistance to the U.S. move to introduce something like managed trade. It can't be helped," he said in a statement.

Another top businessman,

Chairman Takeshi Nagano of the Japan Federation of Employers Association, cited talks of U.S. trade retaliation or action to "talk up" the yen.

"Both would merely increase mutual distrust," he warned.

Trade Minister Kumagai said Saturday this effort at great frankness must continue.

The Japanese side should make clear to the U.S. that Japan is doing its utmost to open its markets," he said.

"When there is a clash of interests, we should not make our position vague as before, but instead make efforts to find common ground while clarifying differences of views."

U.S.-based analysts said the president would lose much credibility if he failed to hit strongly at Japan this time.

Seen from Tokyo however, the outlook was not necessarily all black.

"The U.S. guys had to see the summit failing in order to gain the political capital that it gives them," said Tom Hill, strategist at S.G. Warburg Securities Japan.

## Economist reviews foreign debt and economic growth in Jordan

**JORDAN (T.)** — Dr. Al-Jomard, professor of economics at the University of Mosul-Iraq, in reviewing the problem of foreign debt in many less developed countries (LDCs), has pointed out that foreign debt in these countries is more than \$1,700-billion in 1993.

Addressing an audience interested in economic and financial matters at the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan last week, Dr. Al-Jomard said during the 70s and 80s foreign debt increased in these countries from \$70 billion to \$1,300 billion.

The study he presented sought to investigate the effect of foreign loans on economic growth in Jordan and to construct an alternative result for the path of foreign debts till the year 2000.

He noted that net transfers have been in debt (disbursements less

principal repayments and interest payments) in LDCs changed from a positive value of \$35 billion in 1981 to a negative value of \$31 billion in 1986. Since the early 80s many LDCs have asked the IMF for support to lessen the burden of their debts. Rescheduling has always required the LDCs to satisfy certain requirements specified by the IMF which include measures for economic stability policies based on the market mechanism.

Professor Al-Jomard said Jordan in this matter was no exception as its foreign debts increased from nearly \$120 million in 1970 to more than \$9 billion in 1990.

He explained that commercial and short-term loans increased markedly during the 80s. Thus interest rate on debts increased from about 3.7 per cent in 1970 to 7.4 per cent on average during the second half of the 80s. On the other

hand, grant element decreased from 39.1 per cent in 1970 to 13.7 per cent on average during the second half of the 80s.

Average net transfer on debt during 1988-1990 was only \$12.3 million compared with \$417 million on average for the period 1985-1987. New loans during the last couple of years of the 80s were hardly enough to service previous debts.

The ratio of debt to gross national product increased from 30 per cent during the second half of the 70s to 143 per cent during the second half of the 80s, he elaborated.

"This fast accumulation rate of foreign debt had external as well as internal reasons related to the strategy of development in Jordan. The high economic growth rate targeted in the various investment programmes and economic plans between 1963-1990 had pressed for high investment rates, which were not met by national savings. In fact, gross domestic

savings in the last two decades had always been negative (with the exception of two years)," he said.

The chronic deficit in the balance of payment, a problem that was referred to in all of the economic plans, had been one of the reasons, Dr. Al-Jomard pointed out.

The Iraqi professor said the expansion of the industrial sector has required increased importation of capital as well as intermediate goods. These represented 40 per cent of the total imports by 1990. The imports of oil have also increased due to higher oil prices reaching 16 per cent of total imports by 1990. This was accompanied by an increase in imports of consumption and luxury goods. On the other side, the growth of exports lapsed down during the 80s.

The lack of savings, the deficit in the trade balance as well as in the public budget led to an increasing reliance on foreign assistance and borrowing from official as well as private sources, he noted.

Dr. Al-Jomard said the results have shown that certain selected values from a list suggested by the IMF programme may lead to a gradual decrease in foreign debt in the future. Similar results may also be obtained by adopting selected values from the experience of the economy. It also showed that higher income growth rate may not be necessarily warranted, especially if it doesn't generate a saving rate sufficient to make up for the investment rate needed for the higher growth. It has also become clear that the stock of that foreign debt is quite sensitive to changes in values of the key macro indicators mentioned above.

These results suggest that harmony between various policies to influence the values of the key macro indicators is a vital factor to achieve satisfactory results.

## Marriage fund almost doubles in UAE budget

**ABU DHABI (R)** — A marriage fund set up in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to encourage nationals to marry local women has been promised 150 million dirhams (\$41 million) in the UAE's 1994 federal budget, almost double the 1993 allocation.

"This reflects the country's keenness to support the fund to achieve its aims," UAE minister of state for finance and industry Ahmad Humaid Al Tayer said in remarks published in newspaper ers.

It was one of the largest increases of any one category in the 1994 budget of 17.61 billion dirhams (\$4.79 billion) in spending and 16.2 billion dirhams (\$4.4 billion) revenues.

The marriage fund was set up in 1992 by UAE President Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahyan to provide soft loans for wedding expenses to encourage UAE men to marry local women instead of foreigners.

It gives grants of up to 70,000 dirhams (\$19,000) to men who marry UAE women. It has so far approved more than 2,000 requests.

Since it was established, at least 11 tribes from the Gulf Arab states have met to denounce soaring costs of lavish parties, expensive gifts and dowries common in local weddings which they blame for UAE men seeking foreign wives.

## Russia wants to limit foreign bank presence

**DAVOS, Switzerland (AFP)**

— Moscow plans to limit the presence of foreign commercial banks in Russia to encourage the activity of local institutions, central bank chairman Victor Gerashchenko has said.

Mr. Gerashchenko said that foreign banks represent 12 per cent of the one trillion roubles (\$646 million) in capital held by the Russian banking community.

"We think that for a certain period of time, we will keep this limitation," he told AFP.

"We need to promote our commercial banks."

Moscow has already moved to curb the activities of foreign commercial banks operating under licence in Russia, with only three of the 12 allowed to handle transactions with Russia.

Chairman Takeshi Nagano of the Japan Federation of Employers Association, cited talks of U.S. trade retaliation or action to "talk up" the yen.

Trade Minister Kumagai said Saturday this effort at great frankness must continue.

The Japanese side should make clear to the U.S. that Japan is doing its utmost to open its markets," he said.

Mr. Gerashchenko said Russia was also looking at tax breaks and other special arrangements to attract selected foreign firms to invest in Russia.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Handle business matters wisely as you attempt to be more aware of the thoughts your associates are having where your mutual interests are concerned. Make alliances with influential persons.

### ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19)

An ideal day to do something thoughtful for persons who mean much in your life. Opportunity now for an easy way to avoid an argument.

### TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20)

Putting things in order around you is wise in the morning. Then extend special favours to those who have been most loyal and helpful to you.

### SAGITTARIUS:

(November 22 to December 21)

A friend acts in a strange fashion, but it is not your fault, so be patient and kind. Do join in group activity right now and avoid possible trouble.

### CAPRICORN:

(December 22 to January 20)

Showing good judgement with persons who have power over your affairs is wise at this time. Plan how to be more influential in your community.

### AQUARIUS:

(January 21 to February 19)

Visit with the most high-minded people you know and make this an inspiring day, whether it be in spiritual, scientific or business matters.

### PISCES:

(February 20 to March 20)

Being sure to use good judgement is important since your hub are not good at this time. Carefully attend to any responsibilities that you may have.

whatever may arise. Evening is ideal for some interest reading.

### LIBRA:

(September 23 to October 22)

You are feeling limited and dull, so go to an amusing recreation or see an inspiring picture on TV, or go to a good play and have some fun.

### SCORPIO:

(October 23 to November 21)

Show that you can be of great help to those who are in trouble of some kind. Extend your own horizons, also. If you think and act in an ethical fashion, you can be free of private worries.

### GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21)

You are able to get into the inexpensive pleasure that you enjoy with friends. Control your temper with a person whose ideas you do not like.

### MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21)

Supporting your family in their ideas is good and also makes a good impression on others. Take it easy tonight.

### LEO:

(July 22 to August 21)

An ideal day for reading which you have put off. Also, converse with persons of wisdom and

# Economy

## Analysts say low coffee output could wreak havoc in Africa

NAIROBI (R) — Severe drought in East Africa is stalling coffee production and devastating the economies of coffee-growing countries, economic analysts say.

"If the low production resulting from drought persists for a long time, the implications on our weak economy are too bleak to speculate," a Tanzanian industry official told Reuters.

Coffee producers Burundi, Kenya and Tanzania are already reeling from economic difficulties and depend on coffee for most of their annual hard currency earnings.

Burundi's crop is expected to plummet 39 per cent from the combined effects of drought damage to the crop

resulting from political violence in October after a failed coup attempt.

The Burundi Coffee Board expects the 1993/94 year coffee crop to drop sharply to 22,000 tonnes down from 36,000.

In Tanzania, officials say output will drop 17 per cent from last year due to drought and lack of affordable inputs. Production will fall to 49,075 tonnes down from 59,420 tonnes.

Kenyan officials say the regional economic engine will face a crop cut of up to nine per cent. Output is now estimated at 65,000 tonnes from 71,333 tonnes last year.

"Coffee production is important to these economies, and any dislocation in the in-

dustry directly affects them," a banking official in the Kenyan capital Nairobi said.

The drought comes at a time when the coffee economies are already hard-pressed by low prices resulting from the collapse of a market regulating pact in July 1989.

Africa's share of the coffee trade is slightly less than 24 per cent, down from 30 per cent in the 1970s because of drought, war, poor quality and outdated marketing techniques.

Despite efforts to diversify to other areas such as tourism, tea and cotton, officials said it would take a long time before coffee ceased to be an important player in these economies.

REUTERS

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IAE President Zia

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## N. Korea says U.N. sanctions mean 'declaration of war'

TOKYO (R) — North Korea, lashing out over U.N. nuclear-inspection demands, warned the United States Saturday that any sanctions would be deemed a "declaration of war."

The Stalinist state said it would refuse to let the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) make unconditional inspections of all nuclear sites.

And it told President Bill Clinton's administration not to apply economic pressure to settle a bitter nuclear dispute.

North Korea has refused to allow checks on two sites widely believed to be part of a secret nuclear arms programme, and has blamed the crisis on "perfidious acts" by the United States.

The IAEA, a U.N. watchdog, holds a crucial board meeting on Feb. 21 in Vienna to decide whether to recommend economic sanctions against cash-strapped North Korea.

Mr. Clinton said Friday that economic sanctions were "one option" if North Korea continued to balk at inspections.

"The heavier the pressure on us, the firmer our determination," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said separately Saturday.

He said Pyongyang still wanted to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue.

"If (Washington) thinks it can get something by frightening us with strength, regarding

pressure as an almighty solution, it is a mistake," he said.

In another comment raising the stakes in the row, Rodong Sinmun, the North Korea's ruling party daily, said:

"We have already declared in an explicit term that we would consider any kind of 'sanctions' to be something like a declaration of war against us."

"It is a well known fact that we never utter empty words."

Minju Joson, the official daily, said: "The seditious quarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency instigated by the United States are demanding a comprehensive inspection of the DPRK (North Korea) and threatening that if we take a new 'step', if we refused it."

"This is a sinister act trampling upon the sovereignty and dignity of our republic and a crude interference in our internal affairs," said the daily, according to the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored in Tokyo.

"If the (IAEA) secretariat truly has the intention to peacefully solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, it must renounce its unreasonable demand going beyond the scope of inspection necessary for the continuity of safeguards," the daily said.

CIA Director James Woolsey warned Tuesday that North Korea may be about to recover more plutonium, a main ingredient in nuclear weapons, by shutting down an atomic reactor at Yongbyon, 60 miles (100 km) north of Pyongyang.

But obviously, the sanctions option is one option."

Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told the same Washington news conference that the dispute with the hardline Communist state was a matter of "very strong deep concern."

"Within the coming 10 days or so, very soon I would say, this issue is going to face a climax," Mr. Hosokawa said.

After months of negotiations, the North Koreans agreed with the United States last month to let the Atomic Energy Agency inspect five nuclear sites but not two further sites the agency wants to see.

North Korea said last week that there was "no immediate prospect" of letting the IAEA conduct unconditional checks. Agency officials said this week they had received no further word from the Pyongyang government.

The United States has some 35,000 troops stationed in South Korea and has threatened to deploy Patriot anti-missile defence batteries if Pyongyang holds out against the IAEA.

CIA Director James Woolsey warned Tuesday that North Korea may be about to recover more plutonium, a main ingredient in nuclear weapons, by shutting down an atomic reactor at Yongbyon, 60 miles (100 km) north of Pyongyang.

A North Korean diplomat in Beijing dismissed Mr. Woolsey's remarks.

Rodong Sinmun warned that it would consider any punitive measures by the U.S. to be a declaration of war and would punish it more seriously than in the 1950-1953 Korean War.

"If the United States tries to overpower the DPRK with strength, it would be a big mistake and it would meet defeat more serious than that it suffered in the Korean War in the 1950s," a North Korean analyst said.

Meanwhile, two leading South Korean newspapers carried editorials Saturday urging citizens to prepare for "the worst" if the nuclear confrontation with North Korea is not resolved peacefully.

However, government officials said the dispute had not reached a crisis point and called for continued dialogue with the North.

The editorials reflect a growing sense of pessimism in South Korea resulting from a belief that U.N. Security Council sanctions against longtime rival North Korea are inevitable — and could provoke a military response.

South Korean officials feel U.N. sanctions against North Korea for failure to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities could push the isolated, unpredictable North to retaliate.



FIRST PRIZE: Swapna Parekh from the Black Star, USA, won the first prize Spot News with the Latur, India. The prize was awarded at the World Press Photo Contest in Amsterdam, Netherlands (AFP)

## Defence force is ready to prevent disruption of election — De Klerk

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (Agencies) — The South African Defence force

has contingency plans ready to prevent any right-wing disruption of the April 26-28 all-race elections. President F.W. De Klerk said Saturday.

"We can't allow any minority to disrupt the process," he told journalists on a bus trip to a coloured (mixed race) township during the final day of his three-day election campaign tour of Orange Free State province.

Mr. De Klerk said he was certain of the basic loyalty of the security forces and that any threat would come from right-wingers outside the force.

Law and Order Minister Kobie Coetsee, who was travelling with the president, said that security had been tightened at army bases and arms depots.

"We have launched special plans to protect our personnel and safeguard our weapons," he said, warning against any attempt by white right-wingers to break into arms depots.

Weapons would be withdrawn from any members of the security forces who abused their arms or their positions, said Mr. Coetse, who warned organisations against trying to put pressure on members of the defence force.

"As South Africa moves into the turbulent pre-election period it is important that the government can rely on the defence force and their professionalism. Any attempt to undermine their integrity will be immediately taken care of."

Mr. Coetse said that steps had also been taken to ensure

free and fair elections in Bophuthatswana and Kwazulu black homelands, which could boycott the polls.

Mr. De Klerk said he was "gravely concerned" that Bophuthatswana and Kwazulu's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) would not contest the polls.

"Because of the power which they have... a difficult situation could arise," he said.

He added, however, that he remained "fairly confident" that a solution would be found to bring Bophuthatswana, the IFP and the white right-wing back into the democracy process.

The deadline for the registration of political parties

contesting the election was set for midnight (2200 GMT) Saturday, but Mr. De Klerk has said it could be extended.

Meanwhile, chanting African National Congress (ANC) supporters hurled insults at President De Klerk Saturday and bodyguards had to clear a path for him to make an election speech.

A crowd of about 700 supporters of the ANC and Mr. De Klerk's ruling National Party mingled in chaotic scenes outside the Heidelberg Community Centre near the Orange Free State capital of Bloemfontein.

"A heavy police and National Party security presence failed to deter ANC supporters from chanting and hurling abuse at the president when he arrived at the end of the three-day campaign tour.

Mr. De Klerk drew heckling and insults as his bodyguards pushed their way through the crowd, trying to reach a small

podium from where he had planned to address his followers.

ANC supporters waved banners saying "go away De Klerk." National Party supporters waved flags and posters welcoming him.

Mr. De Klerk managed to make a short speech in Afrikaans and then shouted above the turmoil in English: "I have travelled throughout the Orange Free State and I have discovered the majority is prepared to work and vote for the National Party."

He then left the township surrounded by worried bodyguards after the first serious disruption of the trip. ANC supporters chased his motor cavalcade shouting abuse.

Key players remained on the sidelines of South Africa's political process Saturday only hours before the midnight deadline (2200 GMT) looming for political parties to register for the country's first all-race election.

By noon (1000 GMT), 11 organisations, including Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), President Dr. Klerk's National Party (NP) and the hardline Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), had registered for the vote.

But none of the conservative groups making up the Freedom Alliance had visited the offices of the independent Electoral Commission at the World Trade Centre here.

Two Alliance members, the white right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF) and Kwazulu tribal homeland, have already indicated they will snub the ballot.

## Protestants suspected in attack on Sinn Fein

BELFAST (R) — Suspected Protestant guerrillas fired a rocket Saturday at the Belfast Headquarters of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing, police said.

Emperor Akihito's trip to Iwo Jima, 1,250 kilometres south of Tokyo, was the first by a Japanese monarch and part of 25th-anniversary rites marking the return of the Ogasawara, or Bonin, islands from U.S. to Japanese rule.

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Last year, he made a similar trip to Okinawa, scene of the other major land battle on Japanese soil in the closing days of World War II.

A Protestant man and a Catholic man were injured in separate gun attacks in Belfast Friday night.

A Protestant man and a Catholic man were injured in separate gun attacks in Belfast Friday night.

The snow forced the United Nations Security Council to postpone its scheduled debate on Bosnia until Monday.

The Long Island Rail Road, the largest commuter rail system in the United States, was forced to halt service on a third of its network due to problems with snow buildup on its third-rail electric power supply. The crippled area included all service to and from New York's Pennsylvania Station.

About 200 commutes waited at the station until near midnight, when the railroad resumed limited service using diesel locomotives.

Much farther south, temperatures in the Miami area ho-

vered near 80 and tourists and business travellers extended their Florida vacations.

"I am finding that there are individuals who are stranded... happily stranded," said Mayo Villafana, spokesman for the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The New York Stock Exchange closed 90 minutes early, the first weather-related early closing since 1978. Other financial markets also closed early.

Ms. Cole said the hotel is receiving more than 100 calls a day from chilled northerners eager to get some sun and surf. "It's an automatic reflex to get on the phone to get a room in Miami," she said.

The extra business is welcome news for Florida's tourism industry, which has taken a beating since a series of high-profile attacks on tourists last year. Tourism is the state's largest industry.

For others, getting to Florida is the main obstacle.

Rich Steck, spokesman for Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, said bookings were affected temporarily by snowed-in vacationers who were unable to leave their northern homes.

At Norwegian Cruise Line, the volume of calls has soared. Spokeswoman Stacy Moyer said reservation clerks were

working overtime to accommodate guests who had flights cancelled.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress approved \$8.6 billion in relief for victims of the Los Angeles earthquake Friday, along with \$3.2 billion in spending cuts.

"I'm gratified at how quickly and generously they responded," said Representative Howard Berman, a Democrat from California, as legislators from the two chambers hammered out a compromise.

The House of Representatives voted 245-65 for the new version. Senate approval was triggered by the House vote.

Budget Director Leon Panetta said the relief package for the Jan. 17 earthquake was the most expensive in U.S. history. The tremor killed 61 people and caused \$20 billion in property damage.

President Bill Clinton said he planned to sign the bill early Saturday. "While short-term disaster relief is absolutely necessary, I want to assure that we'll be there over the long run as well," he said.

The bill also includes \$1.2 billion for Defense spending in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and elsewhere and \$685 million in additional relief for victims of last year's floods in the midwest.

## Controversial film opens in London

LONDON (AFP) — The controversial film in "The Name of the Father," which already picked up seven Oscars nominations, opened here Friday amid criticism for its portrayal of a serious British miscarriage of justice in its fight against the IRA. The film, directed by Jim Sheridan, tells the story of the Guildford 4 who were wrongly convicted of the bombing of a pub in a town in southern Britain. In 1975 the four young people from Northern Ireland were sentenced to life imprisonment for the bombing in Guildford in which five people died and more than 60 were injured. But after increasing evidence that there had been a miscarriage of justice, the case was reopened and after serving 15 years in prison the four were finally freed by the court of appeal in October 1989. Along with the cases of the Maguire 7 and the Birmingham 6, it became one of the most spectacular symbols of the failure of British justice in its fight against the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA). Sheridan has now taken the story of the four — Gerard Conlon, Paul Hill, Patrick Armstrong and Carole Richardson — and turned it into a film. It is Ireland's third biggest box-office hit of all time, outsold only by Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park" and Alan Parker's "The Commitments," which was filmed in Dublin. At its first showings in Dublin in December, audiences gave it a standing ovation. But despite its success, the film has come under a hail of criticism for its portrayal of the case. Sheridan has had to fend off accusations that he has bent the truth, especially in showing the relationship between Conlon (played by Daniel Day-Lewis) and his father, and in giving lawyer Gareth Peirce (played by Emma Thompson) a more dominant role. "In the name of the father is a distortion that covers up the truth again," said historian Robert Kee, who led the campaign to free the four.

"In doing so, it may have handed something on a plate to the very sort of people long happy to say out of the side of their mouth — wrongly — that no miscarriage of justice took place at all."

## Lovers flock to blacksmith's shop

LONDON (R) — Britain's most romantic marriage register office — an old blacksmith's shop at Gretna Green in Scotland — will open specially on Valentine's Day by popular demand. The office, normally open only from Tuesday to Saturday, is already fully booked Monday with 21 couples travelling from all parts of Britain to tie the knot.

James Molyneaux, who leads the Ulster Unionists, the province's biggest party, said Britain and Ireland had given the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein long enough and knew their two-month-old initiative had withered away.

"They know this perfectly well without my telling them but if they do not believe the experiment has failed I am ready to broadcast this message loud and clear," the Protestant and pro-British leader told Britain's BBC Television.

Meanwhile, an Anglo-Irish deal aimed at bringing peace to Northern Ireland suffered fresh blows Friday when a Protestant leader declared it dead and Republicans quashed

Police said they believed the Protestant man, who was hit in the leg when shots were fired at his home, was the victim of a Republican gunman.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Tokyo gets heaviest snowfall in 25 years

TOKYO (AFP) — The heaviest snowfall in 25 years hit the Tokyo metropolitan area Saturday, paralysing air, railway and highway traffic and injuring people. Almost 700 domestic flights were cancelled with runways heavily covered with snow. More than 300,000 passengers were affected by cancellations of trains, airline and railway company officials said. The snow delayed arrivals or departures of some 160 international flights at Tokyo's Narita Airport. The Meteorological Agency said that Tokyo recorded 23 centimetres (9.2 inches), the heaviest since 1969. Other areas in eastern and western Japan facing the Pacific Ocean were also covered by heavy snow. Any highways in and around Tokyo were closed, while some 30 pedestrians were injured after slipping or being hit by cars in Tokyo, police said. Police said that a 79-year-old woman died after being hit by a truck which slipped in Osaka, western Japan. A four

## Maradona maps out future coaching and caviar

ENOS AIRES (R) — Maradona, sacked by its portuguese club last week and at war with the Argentine press, still wants to become national team coach.

"I want to be friends with the national team and try to make it to the World Cup," he said. "And if everything's fine, I'd like to learn from him, become his number two."

The Argentina captain, who was shot in the eye with pellets from an air gun at a rally after being sacked by club Newell's Old Boys nine days ago, was interviewed on television Thursday night and appeared calm after a outburst which had been branded a borderline menace.

Maradona could even turn again for Newell's, who he left in October in his second comeback after a 15-month wide ban for doping. He is still a Napoli player.

Maradona's coach Jorge Castrovilli was willing to have Maradona sacked for training

## Maleeva upsets Navratilova

## Virginia Slims of Chicago

CHICAGO (R) — Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria spoiled seed Martina Navratilova's bid for a 13th Virginia Slims of Chicago title, posting a 6-4 upset victory Friday in the semi-finals.

Navratilova, 37, who is making her farewell tour this year on the women's tennis circuit, gave an emotional standing ovation from the crowd at the University of Illinois-Chicago gym.

"I was okay until I was taking off the court, and nobody said 'thank you,'" Navratilova said. "My eyes red from crying. If it's any indication, I'm going to cry every time I play, win or lose."

Maleeva had only one previous victory against Navratilova in five meetings but that was in a big spot — a three-set triumph at the 1992 U.S. Open.

"I'm glad I beat her on her surface," Maleeva said. In the first set, Navratilova was at break point in the first and third sets, but failed to capitalise.

Maleeva broke Navratilova in the eighth game for 5-3 and as the top seed doubled on the last point.

Maleeva broke Navratilova in the fourth game of the final set at 15 to lead 3-1, 1 after the two exchanged two breaks. Maleeva held to go ad 52, firing an ace for the

game-winner.

"The biggest problem was my inability to return better and take advantage of the break points," Navratilova said. "Obviously, I was not at my best today and she was."

Navratilova's loss put a damper on tournament festivities. Because this is her last year on the tour and since Navratilova has had such success in Chicago, she has been showered with gifts and tributes all week.

The Chicago Park District honoured her between her singles and doubles matches Friday, reading salutations from President Clinton, Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and other dignitaries. Edgar already had proclaimed this week as "Martina Navratilova days" in Illinois.

"It's never easy, especially coming from Bulgaria," Maleeva said about going such a crowd favourite.

"There are no tournaments in Bulgaria. I'm kind of used to it (lack of fan support). We always were the bad ones coming from the communist countries."

The 18-year-old Maleeva, youngest of the three tennis playing sisters, will play unseeded and 47th-ranked American Chanda Rubin in the semifinals.

Rubin, who turns 18 next week, defeated unseeded compatriot Sandra Cacic 6-4 6-0 in their quarter-final.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARAF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
Tennis Media Services Inc.

### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:	♦K♦ ♦A♦ ♦Q♦ ♦7♦	♦A♦ ♦K♦ ♦Q♦ ♦6♦
The bidding has proceeded:	North East South West	1♦ 3♦ 2♦ 2♦
1♦ 3♦ 2♦ 2♦	Pass	Pass
Weak	?	?
What do you bid now?		
Q2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:	♦A♦ ♦K♦ ♦Q♦ ♦6♦	♦A♦ ♦K♦ ♦Q♦ ♦6♦
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?		
Q3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:	♦A♦ ♦K♦ ♦Q♦ ♦6♦	♦A♦ ♦K♦ ♦Q♦ ♦6♦
The bidding has proceeded:	South West North East	1♦ 3♦ 2♦ 2♦
1♦ 3♦ 2♦ 2♦	Pass	Pass
What do you bid now?		

## FOR RENT

Super deluxe unfurnished apartment, 195 square metres, consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, salon, dining, balcony, oakwood kitchen (Alno) with central heating, elevator, special garage. Location: Rabieh, adjacent to the Chinese embassy.

Please call tel. 664433

**TODAY**

## PHILADELPHIA

Moira Kelly — in  
**The Cutting Edge**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
Special show for children on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m.  
Bugs Bunny Film

Tel.: 634144

## CINEMA PLAZA

Mahmoud Hamid/Laila Alawi in  
**OBEEDIENCE WARNING**  
Arabic  
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Tel.: 699238

## CINEMA CONCORD

**CONCORD "1"**  
**LETHAL WEAPON "3"**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
**CONCORD "2"**  
**FALLING DOWN**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15  
Arabic Play "Hi America" at 8:30

Tel.: 677420

## Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

presents a play entitled:  
**AL ILM NUR**  
A popular political comedy  
Actors: Abder Issa, Daoud Jafajat, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali  
in addition to other comedians  
Every night at 9:30  
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## Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155 AHLAN THEATRE

Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents  
**Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play)**  
daily at 8:30 p.m.  
Theatre is closed Mondays and Tuesdays

## Faisali keep firm grip on top of Jordan soccer championship

By Aileen Banayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the 13th stage of Jordan's soccer first division championship ended Friday, Al Faisali and Al Hussein appear to be the two teams that most benefited from their results while lowly Al Baqaa and Sahab got a moral boost as both drew and thus managed to advance their standing leaving newcomers Al Fuheis in last place.

Argentina's 1986 World Cup hero admitted his reaction might have been a bit out of line but insisted he had been pushed too far by the media.

"I felt attacked, that's why I reacted," Maradona said. "There were reporters surrounding my home, hovering over it in a helicopter, frightening my daughters. I called the police and they said nothing could be done."

Asked whether he was in full control of himself when he used the air rifle to scare away the reporters, he said: "I was not under the influence of drugs. I was feeling the effects of leaving Newell's."

While Al Faisali celebrated their third goal by Hammad, Al Ramtha's Khaled Al Aquiri blasted a long shot that stunned Al Ramtha. From then on, the titleholders lost half a dozen chances to score in the first half before Ja'far Hammadi netted in the second goal.

As Al Faisali played in a slack manner Al Aquiri again scored for his team in the 76th minute. However Al Faisali managed to keep their lead

and win the match.

In another match, Al Baqaa managed to hold former champions Al Widhat to a 1-1 draw. Al Widhat thus remained in fifth place while Al Baqaa moved up one place to number 10.

Although Al Widhat had a good command of the first half, Al Baqaa were the first to score by Ismail Mohammad in the 46th minute.

Al Widhat clearly missed the efforts of nine key players, and barely managed the equalising goal by Ali Juma'a in the 77th minute.

Sixth-placed Al Qadissieh scored their second consecutive convincing win when they defeated Al Ahli 3-1 in a match which witnessed rough play and a lost penalty shot for Al Jazireh.

### Standings after 13th stage

Team	P	W	D	GD	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	13	11	1	—	32	8	36	36
Ahli	13	7	3	—	3	21	12	27
Hussein	13	6	3	2	2	20	9	26
Ramtha	13	7	1	1	4	22	13	24
Widhat	13	5	3	2	3	11	9	23
Qadissieh	13	4	3	2	4	18	15	22
Ahli	13	3	4	—	6	17	28	17
Jazireh	13	2	5	—	6	15	18	16
Yarmouk	13	4	—	2	7	12	23	14
Baqaa	13	3	2	1	7	9	23	14
Sahab	13	2	2	2	7	12	19	12
Fuheis	13	3	1	1	8	8	20	12

## Norway's King Harald opens Lillehammer Games



Young Norwegians perform a traditional piece of Lillehammer before the opening ceremony Saturday with the Olympic flame in a village east of Lillehammer (AP)

### LILLEHAMMER (R) — King

Harald of Norway formally opened the Lillehammer Winter Olympics Saturday in a glittering ice pageant chronicling his people's age-old battle with cold mother nature.

Reindeer pulled sleighs, indigenous Sami (Lapps) sang pagan hymns, and two paragliders waving a giant Norwegian flag fell from a freezing but cloudless northern sky.

But thoughts were also turned to 1984 host city Sarajevo as International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch asked for a moment of silence and appealed for an end to the fighting.

The three-times Wimbledon champion, who has returned to the tour after a seven-week absence during which he assisted at the birth of his son, defeated fourth-seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline 6-4, 6-2. He now plays French-based Ronald Agenor of Haiti for a place in Sunday's final.

Bonnett planned to run the Feb. 20 Daytona event and five other Nascar events this season while continuing with television commentary for others.

Since the track opened in 1959, 26 people have been killed there. The Alabama driver's death was the first since James Adano was killed last year.

Bonnett is the third Nascar star driver to die in the past twelve months. Alan Kulwicki died in a plane crash last April and Davey Allison died July 13, a day after his helicopter crashed at Talladega Speedway.

Bonnett sustained massive head injuries and was taken to nearby Halifax Medical Centre in critical condition.

Bonnett had suffered concussion and partial loss of memory.

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At the 1988 Calgary Olympics, Norway managed just a silver and bronze in the men's cross-country, for three successive Olympics without a gold medal in their national sport. Fearing possible humiliation at their own Lillehammer Games, the Norwegians set up a programme designed to bring success.

Norway's huge investment in waxing technology has been partly credited for the success of their cross-country skiers over the past three years.

Head coach Inge Braaten said: "After 1989 the Norwegians started doing altitude training and developed a lot of new methods for waxing skis.

In Calgary one Norwegian waxer used a protective mask with a four-day lifespan for three weeks. Whenever he left the shed he felt dizzy and on the last day he collapsed from the effect of inhaling the fumes.

## Maleeva-Fagniere reaches her last tournament's final

AMAGASAKI, Japan (AP) — Manuela Maleeva-Fagniere breezed past Mana Endo in the semi-finals here Saturday to move to within a match of ending her professional career on a high note at the \$150,000 Asia Open women's tennis tournament.

Determined to retire on a

winning note, the top-seeded Bulgarian-born Swiss dominated the match with accurate baseline strokes, coasting to a 6-0, 6-3 victory over the Japanese third seed.

Maleeva-Fagniere, who will turn 27 Monday, has decided to hang up her racket after Sunday's final.

In Lillehammer today, we want to send our warmest thoughts and profound sympathy to the people of Sarajevo, whose lives have taken such a tragic turn."

Samaranch, wearing an Olympic truce emblem on his coat, asked for a moment's silence which was observed.

He appealed to the warring factions: "Please stop the fighting."

Some of sport's biggest names missed the opening ceremony, including U.S. figure skaters Harding and Nancy Kerrigan.

Harding is fighting a legal battle in her home state of Oregon to prevent the U.S. Olympic Committee hold a planned hearing in Norway next week to decide whether she should be thrown out of the games.

Kerrigan, hit with an iron bar last month in an assault which Harding's ex-husband and associates have admitted they carried out, has already arrived at the games — but decided not to join the athletes' parade because of the cold.

Temperatures in Lillehammer have barely risen above minus 10 Celsius for the past week and the 1.32 metres of snow on the ground was just two centimetres off the all-time record.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## U.N. team leaves Iraq with uranium

BAGHDAD (R) — A United Nations team left Baghdad on Saturday for Russia carrying an unspecified amount of enriched uranium confiscated from Iraq under U.N. Gulf war ceasefire conditions, a U.N. spokesman said. The uranium will be stored in Russia until the International Atomic Energy Agency determines what to do with it, Justice Yitalo of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) told Reuters. He said he believed there was no more nuclear fuel left in Iraq.

## Terrorism academy operator held

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A man has been arrested and charged with operating an "academy of terrorism" in Beirut, military prosecutor Nasri Lahoud's office revealed Saturday. Ghaleb Hussein Al Jamal, 38, was charging \$50 per lesson on "terrorist attacks at the academy he founded in Beirut's Bourj Al Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp four months ago. Mr. Lahoud's office statement said, "It did not give details of the curriculum, but said Mr. Jamal's son-in-law, Mahmoud Zoubi, has been accused in absentia of recruiting "dozens of students for the academy." No specific figure for the number of students was given, but the statement asserted that none has "put what he learned into practice or committed any crime."

## U.S. to boost Kuwaiti military advisers

KUWAIT (R) — The United States will quadruple the number of its military advisers in Kuwait this year to help modernise the emirate's armed forces, a newspaper reported on Saturday. The English-language Arab Times, quoting an unnamed U.S. military source, said the number of advisers would rise to around 1,000 by March 1995 from 200 presently.

## Thailand plans to ban import of Algeria

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand's foreign minister will pull out the remaining 13 Thai citizens from Algeria by Feb. 24 due to unsafe conditions there, a spokesman said Saturday. The Foreign Ministry said the country's political situation in Algeria, which had resulted in incidents of murder and kidnapping of foreigners, were no longer safe for Thais, the Nation said. The 13, who were working for South Korean carmaker Daewoo, had been sent to Algeria to have been completed, the report said.

## Tunisia's rights group urges activities

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's national Defence of Human Rights said Saturday it was resuming normal activities with government approval after two-year row over its independence. "We are back to our normal activities... I have received a telegram from President Ben Ali and his son, Ben Ali, in which he said that the league will be used to safeguard," the league's new president, Hamed Seoudibala, told a press conference.

## UAE leader pardons 112 prisoners

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan has pardoned 112 prisoners to mark the Holy Month of Ramadan, the official news agency Wafa reported Saturday. Those freed were not guilty of serious crimes and had served at least half of their terms, it said.

## Egyptian police chief says life superior

CAIRO (AP) — A police officer in a hysterical rage shot dead his superior and an assistant. The Interior Ministry on Saturday ruled out any political motivation. In a statement distributed by the state-owned Middle East News Agency, the ministry said Major Abdul Wahab Mohammad Barakat had recently been at odds with his superior in Sohag, southern Egypt. He had been disciplined with a loss of more than two months' pay. Maj. Barakat entered Sohag police headquarters Friday and opened fire at Colonel Nagi Mikhail and his assistant, Yacoub Gurgus, the ministry said. Both died instantly.

## Bomb kills four Turkish military staff

ANKARA (R) — A time bomb planted in a dustbin at a railway station near Istanbul Saturday killed four military cadets and wounded 27 people, Istanbul Governor Hayri Kozakcioglu said. Turkish Health Minister Kazim Ding said earlier that one of those killed was a soldier and about 30 people had been wounded.

## Indonesian reporters to interview Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Indonesia's first four journalists to be invited to visit Israel will interview Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the government press office said Saturday. Three reporters and the editor of the Media Indonesia daily were invited by the Israeli foreign ministry, the press office said. In its Saturday edition, the newspaper said they were assured of obtaining the interview by Avi Stoket, the director for Southeast Asia at the Israeli foreign ministry, and that the newsmen would meet Mr. Rabin Sunday.

## Canada deports 3 Turkish boys and mother

TORONTO (AP) — Three Turkish boys who have spent the last eight years growing up in Canada have been ordered deported along with their mother, despite a letter writing campaign by teachers trying to keep them here. Zafer Kayik, 15, his brothers Cem and Omer, 13, and his mother, Ayse, 36, will be returned to Turkey on Monday night. "It really hurts," said Zafer, a 15-year-old student. "It hurts my brothers more than it will hurt me. They don't know how it is over there and how it will be." The family was ordered deported by immigration officials who rejected the claim the family would be subject to persecution in Turkey because they are Kurds.

## Journalists expelled from Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (AFP) — Three Azerbaijani journalists have been expelled from Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani officials said it was an unauthorised visit to the country's north near the Iranian border, one of the three main regions. Dick Gordon of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) said he, CBC radio producer Doreen McLeod and a journalist for the Toronto-based Socialist People's Party, Mike Trickey, were detained at the frontier and then sent to a camp at Imeshli before being told Friday by Al Sudani International that they had 48 hours to leave the country.

## Shuttle lands in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — Five astronauts and a cosmonaut returned to Earth aboard Discovery, making a delayed landing in Florida after the first joint U.S.-Russian space shuttle mission. The 107-ton spaceship glided to a touchdown with Maria, Charles Bolden at the controls at 2:19 p.m. (1700 GMT).

## U.S. reporter finds in Laos MIA hunt

HANOI (R) — U.S. officials said Saturday that search teams had found human remains and aircraft debris in their drive to account for U.S. Vietnam War servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) in the mountains and jungles of Laos. Experts investigating 24 of the 300 MIA cases in Laos and excavated six suspected crash or grave sites, the Hawaii-based Joint Task Force — Full Accounting (JTFFA) said in a statement received here.

## Thousands flee renewed Somali fighting

MOGADISHU (R) — Gunmen of rival warlords clashed in the worst fighting for six months in the southern Somalia port of Kismayu, driving up 5,000 civilians out of the area, aid workers and U.N. officers said on Saturday.

At least five people were killed and 32 wounded in the fighting which lasted 90 minutes on Friday, said one aid worker who had left Kismayu on Saturday.

U.N. officers see Kismayu area, the gateway to the fertile south, as a prime flashpoint for renewed civil war in Somalia with the pullout of most U.S. troops and their Western allies due to completed by March 31.

Friday's battles were between the forces of General Mohammad Said Hersi "Morgan" and supporters of rival Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess, who was routed from the town in March last year.

Aid workers said the civilians were driven out by Gen. Aideed in 1992. At least

Morgan's forces and came from the Ogaden sub-clan.

Kismayu was quiet but extremely tense Saturday with most people, including aid workers, hiding indoors. The aid workers expected violence to resume after the forces had regrouped.

"Everyone in Kismayu knows Jess is going to do something to revenge Morgan driving the Ogadenis out," said one official.

They said the battles were sparked by an attack by warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) militia on a camp held by Gen. Morgan's forces in Bulo Xaaji, 80 kilometres southwest of Kismayu.

SNA militiamen took prisoners, including a colonel, in the attack on Thursday, they added. Col. Jess, head of the Darod Ogaden Mohammad sub-clan, joined forces with Gen. Aideed in 1992. At least

five people were also killed in Thursday's fighting.

U.N. military officers have reported a buildup of militia forces since November outside Kismayu in an apparent prelude to Col. Jess launching an offensive to recapture his former stronghold.

The workers said "technicals," battle wagons mounted with heavy weapons, were seen near Kismayu in the last two weeks.

Indian U.N. troops took over Kismayu in December from Belgium peacekeepers.

A U.N. military spokesman said Saturday the situation in Kismayu was "stable" concerning the safety of the 1,200 Indian troops in the area but more inter-clan violence was imminent.

Aid workers said the last three foreign aid agencies in the central town of Belet Huem evacuated three international staff Saturday after hand grenades attacks the night before.

Aid workers linked a spate of bombings and shooting in Belet Huem in the last three weeks to Somalis jockeying

to fill the power vacuum left by the withdrawing U.N. forces.

They said the town was one of the quietest in Somalia until Italian units started pulling out. There are 52 U.N. Italian troops left in Belet Huem with 950 German troops. The first shipload of Germans leaves Mogadishu port for home on Sunday.

The U.N. Security Council this month cut the number of its troops in Somalia for the next six months to a maximum of 22,000. At the peak of the U.N. operation to stop militiamen and bandits blocking supplies to end famine more than 30,000 U.N. troops were deployed.

The Seattle-based Christian charity World Concern evacuated its last two American staff from Belet Huem on Friday. All its American staff left Mogadishu after a bomb attack last Sunday.

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It also reduced the mandate of the nearly year-old U.N. operation in Somalia, abandoning any attempt forcibly to disarm clan factions or gunmen hampering aid distribution.

## COLUMN

## Woman makes allegations against Clinton

WASHINGTON (R) — An Arkansas woman, appearing at a news conference with others who have accused Bill Clinton of sexual misdeeds, said Friday that Mr. Clinton had asked her for "a type of sex" when the two were alone in an Arkansas hotel room in 1991. The White House promptly denied the woman's account and said President Clinton did not know her. The woman, Paula Jones, declined to specify what.

Mr. Clinton asked her to do when questioned directly whether Mr. Clinton had asked her to have sex with him. Ms. Jones replied, "a type of sex."

"He took my hand and was loosening his tie," Ms. Jones told reporters at a news conference. She said Mr. Clinton told her, "you have nice curves. I love the way your hair goes down your body." Ms. Jones said she rebuffed Mr. Clinton's alleged overtures and left the hotel room within 20 minutes. "It's not true," said White House Communications Director Mark Gearan. "The incident never happened."

Another senior White House official denounced the event as a "republican dog and pony show" aimed at attacking Mr. Clinton.

## U.S. executive says Pope right on TV violence

NEW YORK (R) — Pope John Paul II's attacks on television as excessively violent and harmful to world society are largely on target, top U.S. television programming executive said. "The Pope is right. There is a lot of very violent television on all over the world," said Ted Harbert, president of ABC Entertainment and a leading influence on what television shows appear on one of America's biggest broadcast networks.

But Mr. Harbert, speaking as part of an industry panel, said the U.S. networks are unfairly charged with emphasising violent and anti-social shows in their programming and not given credit for reducing in recent years the violent scenes in network shows. The Pope has several times in recent weeks depicted television programming as harmful to family and social life and urged the worldwide television industry to police itself by adopting a code of ethics for programming. Besides at times promoting poor role models and undermining morals, the Pope said, television can "isolate family members in their private worlds, cutting them off from authentic interpersonal relations it can also divide the family by alienating parents from children and children from parents."

"These are the souls of the innocent flying towards heaven," explains Mrs. Abbas.

Every Thursday, mothers, fathers and other family members who lost relatives in the bombing visit the site. They pray and leave.

According to official records, 1,200 people entered the Ameria shelter the night of Feb. 12. Only parts of 403 bodies were recovered after the fire ignited by the two consecutive bombs was put out. Many people suffocated but most burned to death.

Until the allies either apologise for mistakenly hitting this civilian shelter or prove that it was a justified military target the anger over the Ameria shelter bombing will remain alive in the hearts of most Iraqis, who consider the bombing of the shelter the "worst single crime of the allied war against Iraq."

## Swiss magistrate suspended for drug addiction

ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) — A Zurich examining magistrate has been suspended and faces disciplinary and legal action for his addiction to cocaine, the local prosecutor said Friday. Hansruedi Muller, the prosecutor, said the 30-year-old judge, who was not identified, had been using cocaine once a month.

## Archbishop says church dull for the young

LONDON (AFP) — The Archbishop of Canterbury said the Church of England was unattractive to young people and might lack a positive attitude towards sexuality, the Times reported Saturday. He made the comments in a book he was to publish next month about his visit to the non-denominational tasse religious community in France. While he praised the French religious community, he cited criticisms from young people that the Church of England had "wordy services" and "long lessons, lots of prayers, dull sermons and hymns that drag on" and condemned its failure to have a youth policy, the paper said.

The archbishop also said in his book "spiritual journey" that historically, the Church of England's attitude to sex "has been far from wholesome and positive" and that positive attitudes towards sexuality might have been overlooked.

## Iraqis mark Ameria bombing anniversary, vow not to forget

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordon Times Staff Reporter

AMERIA, Baghdad — Feb. 13 marks the single most traumatic day of remembrance for residents of this Baghdad suburb every year. It was on this day in 1991 that two Allied bombs hit a large civilian bomb shelter at 4 a.m. and left over 400 women and children dead.

Today the shelter has been turned into a museum. Guided tours are given by the mother of one of the bombing victims. Pictures of the 403 identified victims as well as dozens of pictures of victims whose bodies were never found decorate the long black walls of the shelter's interior.

Plastic and paper flower wreaths lie beneath each photo. A place for prayer for both Muslims and Christians has been built inside the shelter which now serves as a mausoleum and symbol of the civilian victims of the war over Kuwait.

Many foreign observers maintain that the two-storey shelter contained a third

underground floor in which senior Iraqi military personnel hid. But no one has brought forth any evidence to substantiate this claim. No member of the allied coalition has ever admitted that the bombing of the Ameria shelter was a mistake or misguided judgement.

Iraqis, both military and the survivors of the shelter, view the claim that the Ameria shelter was a military target as an unfounded excuse which the allies used to dissociate themselves from guilt.

"This was and is a civilian shelter and claims to the contrary are untrue," says shelter museum curator Saleema Abbas. "If there was anything military underneath then why did they not find it?" she asks.

Mrs. Abbas lost her 14-year daughter Ghaida in the shelter as well as eight other members of her family. She dusts pictures of victims, straightens the wreaths and gives guided tours to state visitors and members of the press.

The site of the bombing

## 3 French tourists freed in Yemen

SANA (Agencies) — Tribesmen Saturday freed three French tourists from three weeks of captivity after authorities promised to complete an abandoned road project in their desert region, a negotiator announced.

Sheikh Mohammad Abul Lohoum, secretary of the Bakil confederation of tribes that was negotiating for the release of the three, said the tribe let their captives go at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT).

They have been identified as 42-year-old cardiologist Brigitte Fontaine; and elderly retired agriculture teacher Henri Heslot and his wife Jeanne.

Sheikh Mohammad told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that he was advised by his companions the three were "in good condition."

Two hours later, Interior Minister Yehya Al Mutawakil confirmed that the three had reached Sanaa and were in satisfactory condition.

The three arrived in a Yemeni army helicopter from the village of Al Madan where they were held by Ahnum tribesmen.

"France is very happy they have been released and thanks the Yemeni authorities as well as the elders who personally

intervened to help free them," said a French foreign ministry spokesman in Paris.

He said the three who were in good health had been received by the French ambassador to Yemen, Marcel Laugel, were to return Sunday to France on a regular flight.

The French tourists were accompanied by a delegation of negotiators sent earlier in the week by the government to secure their release.

The three had been detained near the village of Al Madan, 200 kilometres northwest of the capital. They had been abducted in Hajja province while on a tour organised by Club Aventure, the company's director in Paris had said.

On Feb. 1, reliable Yemeni sources said the authorities had told the captors in a letter they would look into demands for a road into the tribesmen's remote mountain fief.

The powerful Hashed tribes, whose land surrounds the Ahnum, had altered the direction of the contested road.

The Ahnum were demanding that a road be built to bypass Hashed land, so that their goods could be delivered to other parts of the country safely.

Last month the English-

language Yemen Times reported that the Ministry of Public Works had come under strong pressure from the Hashed tribal chief, Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, who is the parliamentary speaker, to re-route the road so as to skirt the Ahnum enclave.

Hashed tribesmen had cut off supplies to the remote mountain village in northwestern Yemen where the French tourists were held to force the kidnappers' surrender.

President Ali Abdallah Saleh recently warned kidnappers in Yemen they would not escape unpunished following the detention of the French tourists.

Mr. Mutawakil said the release of the three hostages was thanks to mediation efforts, notably by chiefs of the Bakil tribal group of which Ahnum are members.

Tribes frequently kidnap foreigners, particularly Western oil workers, as leverage in dealing with the government. Sheikh Ahmar is speaker of parliament and leader of the Islah Party, an Islamist group that is a member in the